FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 124 *27 June 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Arab League Calls For Emergency Session 1 July	A	1	1/A6
'Arafat Addresses Rally in Southern Lebanon [VOP]	A	1	1/A6
'Arafat Attends Meeting of Palestinian National Fund [VOP]	A	2	1/A7
Arab People's Congress Discusses 'Trial' of As-Sadat	A	2	1/A7
Issues Statement on Egypt	A	2	1/A7
Jordanian-PLO Secret Negotiations Reported	A	3	1/A8
Jordanian CP Condemns Execution of Iraqi Communists [VOP]	A	3	1/A8
'Arafat Receives Condolences From Al-Qadhdhafi [VOP]	A	4	1/A9
Yasir 'Arafat Meets With PLO Cadres in Lebanon [VOP]	A	4	1/A9
Mauritania's Ould Daddah Affirms Unity With PLO [VOP]	A	4	1/A9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

SAUDI ARABIA

Moscow Accused of Looking for 'New Positions' in Yemen	C	1	1/A10

YEMEN--PDRY

President 'Ali Resigns in Aden 26 June	C	1	1/A10
Official Statement Issued	C	2	1/A11
Al-Hasani To Be New Presidential Council Chairman	C	3	1/A12
Will Remain Prime Minister	C	4	1/A13
Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali Surrenders to National Front	C	4	1/A13
'Ali Executed	C	4	1/A13
Situation Reported Calm; Radio Resumes Normal Broadcasts	C	4	1/A13
Communications Between Aden, Outside World Restored	C	5	1/A14

YEMEN--YAR

National Mourning for Al-Ghashmi Announced	C	5	1/A14
Saudi Condolences on Assassination Stressed	C	5	1/A14
Arab League Council Meeting on Al-Ghashmi Death Requested	C	5	1/A14
Investigation Committee Formed	C	6	1/B1
Foreign Minister Makes Statement	C	6	1/B1
San'a' Reports Funeral, Saudi, Iraqi, Omani Participation	C	7	1/B2
ATH-THAWRAH Speculates on Origin of Explosive Briefcase	C	8	1/B3
San'a' Calls for Foiling Plots of South Yemen Clique	C	8	1/B3

EGYPT

Foreign Ministry Source on Israeli Rejection of Plan	D	1	1/B4
Foreign Minister Kamil Meets U.S. Ambassador	D	1	1/B4
Kamil Makes Statement	D	2	1/B5
Cairo Radio Comments on Israeli Maneuvering	D	2	1/B5
AKHBAR AL-YAWM Expects U.S. Initiative in Mideast [24 Jun]	D	3	1/B6

Egypt Declares Mourning for YAR's Al-Ghashmi	D 5	1/B8
Egypt Declares Mourning for Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali	D 5	1/B8
AL-AKHBAR Warns of 'Marxist Ambitions' in PDRY	D 5	1/B8
People's Assembly Approves Expulsion of Members	D 6	1/B9
Prosecutor Begins Interrogating Journalist	D 6	1/B9
Sudanese Vice President Arrives for Talks	D 6	1/B9
IRAQ		
AD-DUSTUR Comments on Iraqi CP, Relations With USSR [London 19 Jun]	E 1	1/B10
Afghan Planning Minister Arrives for Trade Talks	E 3	1/B12
JORDAN		
3-Day Mourning on Death of Al-Ghashmi Proclaimed	F 1	1/B13
AR-RA'Y Comments [27 Jun]	F 1	1/B13
Trade Agreement With CSSR Signed in Amman	F 1	1/B13
NORTH AFRICA		
LIBYA		
Mourning to Mark Death of YAR President Announced	I 1	1/B14
Arab People's Congress Ends, Issues Statement	I 1	1/B14
MOROCCO		
Kuwaiti AS-SIYASAH Editor Interviews King Hassan	I 4	1/C3
TUNISIA		
YAR President's Assassination To Be Mourned	I 6	1/C5
WESTERN SAHARA		
Defense Ministry Issues Communique on Battle Successes	I 6	1/C5
ISRAEL		
Begin Comments on his Health, Egyptian Proposals	N 1	1/C3
Begin-Weizman Meeting Said To Have Been 'Cool' [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Jun]	N 1	1/C6
Weizman, Herut Faction Apparently Resolve Problems	N 2	1/C7
Details on Meeting	N 3	1/C8
Tension Increases in S. Lebanon Between UN, Militia	N 4	1/C9
Minister Burg Interviewed on Cabinet Peace Stance [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 23 Jun]	N 5	1/C10
Dayan Backers Meet, Discuss New Political Group	N 8	1/C13
Military Delegation Near Alexandria Changed [MA'ARIV 23 Jun]	N 9	1/C14
Weizman Opposes Efforts to Recall Delegation	N 9	1/C14
Jerusalem Notes Carter's Comments on Egyptian Plan	N 10	1/D1
IRAN		
Shah Gives Interview to Oslo Paper AFTENPOSTEN [17 Jun 78]	R 1	1/D2
Prime Minister Grants Interview to Kuwaiti Daily	R 3	1/D4
Spokesman Denies Prospect of Additional Political Party	R 4	1/D5

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

President Frees Nearly 1,000 Political Prisoners S 1 1/D6

INDIA

AFP Reports 20 June Kashmir Border Incident S 1 1/D6

PAKISTAN

Government Says India Provoked Kashmir Firing S 1 1/D6
Sources Confirm Firing on Indo-Pak Line S 2 1/D7

SRI LANKA

PRC's Keng Piao Concludes Island Visit 25 June S 2 1/D7

BRIEFS

Soviet Aided Bangladesh Plant; Poland Offers Pakistan Ships S 2 1/D7

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50

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ARAB LEAGUE CALLS FOR EMERGENCY SESSION 1 JULY

NC261408Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 June--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad today sent urgent cables to the Arab foreign ministers, notifying them of the YAR's request for an urgent emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the criminal assassination of Yemeni President Ahmad Husan al-Ghashmi and the serious consequences of the incident.

MENA's Arab affairs editor has learned that the Yemeni request calls for convening the Arab League Council meeting Saturday afternoon at Arab League headquarters. The Arab League Secretariat will officially notify the Arab foreign ministers of this date tomorrow. The meeting is expected to be held at the foreign ministers' level in view of the seriousness of the subject.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES RALLY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN252008Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpts] A rally was held today at one of the positions of Al-'Asifah forces in southern Lebanon on the second anniversary of the martyrdom of struggler Sa'd 'Abd al-Qadir Jaradat, commander of the students batallion. The rally was attended by brother Abu 'Ammar and a number of officers and cadres in Al-'Asifah forces. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar was greeted by a detachment from the Al-Jarmaq batallion. The brother leader mounted the dais and made the following speech [read by announcer]:

Brothers: In your name and in the name of our Palestinian people and Arab nation, I send my greetings to all our true martyrs. I send my greetings to martyr Sa'd and to all his hero comrades.

Brothers, history tells us that when [the Crusader] Godfrey entered Jerusalem he sent his famous letter in which he said: The blood rose to the knees of our horses. History also says that 70,000 martyrs died defending Jerusalem against Godfrey's attack. Sadly enough, in 1967 only 71 persons died in the defense of Jerusalem and in the defense of the whole West Bank. Hence we know that our country was lost cheaply and also that our responsibility to win it back is great. In a letter sent to me by Castro after the war in the south, he said: For the first time the Israeli forces know that they are fighting their equals. You have fought in the most splendid way, and you have told Kissinger that the Israeli bludgeon with which he used to threaten you does not terrify you. Two days ago I read a statement by Saunders, who works for the U.S. State Department. Saunders says that the U.S. plans for an Israeli-Egyptian reconciliation will put the West Bank under Joint Israeli-Jordanian administration. I say that such talk is useless. Let Carter, Begin and their agents in the region know that the decisions will not be theirs when you have your guns ready.

The agents who killed Sa'd are those who killed 'Ali Nasir Yasin. They are those who tricked us and stabbed us in the back in September 1970. Carter and Begin depend on many agents. The forms and colors might change, but the plots will continue under the guidance of the U.S. master. Let them understand that we do not fear the U.S. master and therefore we do not fear the agents of the U.S. master. During the celebration, brother Abu 'Ammar met with some inhabitants of the southern villages, heard their complaints and promised them help and support for their steadfastness.

'ARAFAT ATTENDS MEETING OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FUND

JN251729Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] The Board of Directors of the Palestinian National Fund held the first meeting in its current session in Damascus yesterday. Present at the meeting were brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Dr Walid Qamhawi, member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the National Fund; and brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council.

During the meeting, a review was made of the situation on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels as well as of the heroic battles which took place in southern Lebanon. The conferees also discussed with brother Abu 'Ammar the financial status of the PLO and the importance of bolstering the National Fund of the PLO, the legitimate representative of our Palestinian Arab people. The discussion also dealt with the importance of consolidating the steadfastness of our people and their struggling forces.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONGRESS DISCUSSES 'TRIAL' OF AS-SADAT

LD231924Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--The Arab People's Congress has decided to announce the bill of indictment against the Egyptian president at a press conference in the Syrian capital, after the conclusion of the sixth session of the conference which is now being held in Tripoli.

The Permanent Secretariat of the conference completed the discussion of the first item on the agenda regarding the procedures for the trial of the Egyptian president at its session last night. Certain measures taken in connection with this trial will be announced at a press conference, which will be attended by Arab and international information media. Sources attached to the conference's Permanent Secretariat stated that the first sitting of the Egyptian president's trial will be held in Baghdad, where the preparatory committee set up for this trial has been entrusted with the task of preparing a detailed plan in this connection.

After discussing the first item on the agenda, the Permanent Secretariat, under the chairmanship of Umar al-Hamidi, the secretary general, continued its discussion on the second item on the agenda, which deals with the current political situation in the world.

Issues Statement on Egypt

LD240912Y Tripoli JANA in English 1511 GMT 23 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, June 23, JANA--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, currently meeting here, issued a political statement on the latest developments in Egypt, in which it praised the great stand adopted by the Egyptian masses against As-Sadat's repressive anti-freedom measures.

"As the Egyptian people's opposition grows stronger against As-Sadat's capitulationist policy, hammered out in collaboration with the Zionist, imperialist and reactionary forces and against his economic measures which pander to the interests of the world capitalism, the Egyptian president continues to make more concessions to the Zionist enemy and to abandon the national rights of the Palestinian people, allowing America to impose its hegemony on Egypt."

The statement pledged its full support for the great people of Egypt with all its progressive forces, including workers, journalists, jurists, lawyers, university professors, the National Progressive Unionist Party, and honourable soldiers and officers of the armed forces.

The statement praised General Sa'd ash-Shadhili for his courageous and responsible stand against As-Sadat's capitulationist and repressive practices. In this respect, the statement appealed to the Egyptian armed forces to shoulder their national responsibilities.

The statement also hailed all the progressive and democratic forces all over the world, particularly those who held conferences and meetings and issued pro-Egyptian statements in which they condemned the repressive measures taken by As-Sadat against the patriotic progressive forces.

JORDANIAN-PLO SECRET NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED

JN2261935Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Gulf press sources have disclosed that secret negotiations have been taking place recently between the royal regime in Amman and the PLO leadership.

Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB, which is close to the PLO leadership, reports that these negotiations are proceeding toward concluding a full agreement based on coordinating work between the two sides. The paper quotes well-informed Palestinian sources as saying that these negotiations pertain to the fate of the West Bank.

These reports come at the time when a number of plans are being submitted about the possibility of the royal regime's handling the negotiations concerning the West Bank.

JORDANIAN CP CONDEMNS EXECUTION OF IRAQI COMMUNISTS

JN2261937Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian Communist Party has denounced the execution of 21 Iraqis who are supposed to be allies [of the Ba'th Party] in the National Progressive Front in Iraq. In a statement issued in Beirut yesterday evening, the party asserted its rejection of this crime and its condemnation of such dealings among political parties. The statement said that the Arab people have been shocked by this measure taken by the Iraqi Government. The Arab people instead expected Iraq to contribute positively to the confrontation of imperialist and Zionist plots [word indistinct].

The statement asked in whose interest these murders were perpetrated in Iraq and to whose satisfaction it is that communists are killed. The statement made it clear that the Iraqi rulers should have revised their stand on the agreement concerning the Kurdish issue, allowed democratic freedom, fought corruption and renounced their negative attitude toward the steadfastness and confrontation front.

The statement said that to hide behind empty revolutionary slogans, to fight communism and to harm allies are very serious matters. The statement said that using preventive acts as pretexts to erect scaffolds and publish lies [words indistinct] are obvious attempts to justify bloody terrorism, to control and limit the communist party and to frighten the masses.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CONDOLENCES FROM AL-QADHDHAFI

JN231650Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, this morning received the Libyan charge in Beirut, who handed him a cable of condolence sent by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, on the occasion of the martyrdom of struggler 'Ali Nasir Yasin, director of the PLO office in Kuwait. The cable reads as follows:

Brother Yasir 'Arafat, I have received with sorrow the news of the assassination of the martyr of the Palestinian resistance, the late brother 'Ali Yasin. May God grant him mercy and admit him to paradise. May God grant you and his relatives patience and solace.

In reply to the condolence cable, brother Abu 'Ammar today sent a cable of thanks to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The cable sent by Abu 'Ammar reads as follows:

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress: In my name and in the name of the Palestinian people and their revolutionaries I thank you very much for your warm condolences on the martyrdom of struggler hero 'Ali Nasir Yasin, who, while performing his duty, was martyred at the hands of treacherous, treasonous agents, moved and protected by the forces of imperialism, Zionism and colonialism.

He fell in accordance with the decision of these forces to annihilate the Palestinian people and their leadership represented by the PLO and its cadres and envoys. This decision has been announced on several occasions by these forces--forces which are hostile to our Arab nation, its aspirations and aims. But the free, honest men of our Arab nation, led by Libya and its people under your wise and courageous leadership, will deal with these plots. All these plots, regardless of their form or color, will founder on the rock of steadfastness and confrontation front, which is at the head of our nation during this difficult and decisive stage in our contemporary history. Once again I thank you very much for these noble sentiments. This is a revolution which will continue until victory.

YASIR 'ARAFAT MEETS WITH PLO CADRES IN LEBANON

JN231705Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Text] PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, Abu 'Ammar, today met with the cadres of the revolution's militia in Lebanon. He explained to them the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and in the Arab and international spheres.

MAURITANIA'S OULD DADDAH AFFIRMS UNITY WITH PLO

JN251737Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has received a letter from Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah in reply to the one sent to him by brother Abu 'Ammar on the dimensions of the recent treacherous Zionist aggression against the bases of Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon. In this letter the Mauritanian president has affirmed the complete solidarity of Mauritania with the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

SAUDI ARABIA

MOSCOW ACCUSED OF LOOKING FOR 'NEW POSITIONS' IN YEMEN

LD271011Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh--The kingdom's papers this morning deal with yesterday's events in Aden. They have linked these events with the assassination of YAR President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi and have warned that communism is trying to build up new positions in the region following the events in the Horn of Africa. They have pointed out that these events come within the framework of the struggle for power among agents who yesterday were friends and today have become enemies and who are laying in wait for each other.

AR-RIYADH writes: The bloody events in the two Yemens have followed each other in a frightening manner, threatening a violent outburst over the remotest land overlooking the Red Sea. The paper goes on to say in its leading article: A search is taking place to trace the connection--which is becoming apparent--between the assassination of President al-Ghashmi and the execution of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali. AR-RIYADH points out that it was clear that after Soviet relations with some African states had ended, Moscow was bound to search for an alternative in the region to fill the vacuum which it became exposed to in more than one Arab and African country. It reports that what the Arab League is going to make public about the conditions surrounding the assassination of Al-Ghashmi is bound to expose the magnitude of the frightening struggle which Aden has begun to suffer from.

UKAZ explains that struggles for power characterize regimes which adopt communism as their program of action. The paper goes on to say that the Yemeni people in Aden are a noble, Moslem people that they reject all forms of subservience and that, at the same time, they reject communist ideology by virtue of the magnanimous faith which they are armed with and which they use to face their enemies. It says that the people in Aden--like those in San'a--are looking forward to the day when Yemen will become strong and distinguished, effectively and positively contributing to the Arab nation which rejects subservience and imported ideologies totally conflicting with the values of our deep-rooted Arab society. The paper adds that the Arab nation should face its destiny and face up to its responsibilities at this fateful time, a time when the Israeli enemy is occupying its land and when communist intrigues are reaching their limits.

AL-BILAD writes that the events in Aden clearly show that the red, communist terror is daily providing evidence of its ways and methods of dealing with former allies when it has no more need of them. It goes on to say that what has occurred in Aden is nothing but a link in a lengthy chain which began in the Ogaden, Shaba Province and Eritrea and through which communism is aiming to impose its domination through blood and terrorism. AL-BILAD warns against the serious dangers into which the region is ruthlessly being led and pushed into.

YEMEN--PDRY

PRESIDENT 'ALI RESIGNS IN ADEN 26 JUNE

OW261644Y Paris AFP in English 1615 GMT 26 Jun 78 OW

[Excerpt] Beirut, June 26 (AFP)--South Yemeni President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali resigned today in Aden, according to a communique from the Unified Political Organization-National Front quoted by Radio Aden.

Official Statement Issued

JN261555Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1455 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Brother citizens: Here is the statement issued by the Central Committee of the Unified Political Organization-National Front:

Masses of our great Yemeni people: The Central Committee of the Unified Political Organization-National Front held an extraordinary meeting on the evening of 25 June to discuss and study the situation and developments which took place in the northern part of the homeland.

Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali refused to attend this extraordinary meeting despite all efforts exerted by the Politburo to persuade him to do so in order to avoid, by his lack of attendance, further sacrifices by our revolution and people. He was only willing to send his resignation to the Central Committee when he felt that the Central Committee would take him to task for his individual practices and behavior, which under no circumstances reflect the policy and principles of the Unified Political Organization-National Front or the policy of the revolutionary government and its stands.

These individual practices violate not only collective, centralized and democratic leadership but also violate the simplest principles well-known to all members of our political organization and the masses of our Yemeni people.

Masses of our struggling people: After discussing and approving the resignation, divesting him of all his party and official posts, and ratifying several measures resulting therefrom, the Central Committee was taken by surprise by Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali's attempt at a coup d'etat, which he began by shelling the meeting headquarters of the Central Committee and its vicinity. This compelled the Central Committee, which is the one which always lifts the rifle, to issue instructions to the military establishments to immediately control the situation and foil the reactionary and conspiratorial coup attempt which violates all the principles of organized legitimacy, collective leadership and the principles and objectives of our revolution and our political organization.

Thanks to the great unity existing between our military establishments and the masses of our people, under the leadership of their revolutionary vanguards--the Unified Political Organization-National Front, this attempt was thwarted and completely destroyed.

Masses of our great people, the recent irresponsible behavior has greatly harmed our political organization and our national progressive regime for our entire Yemeni people. We hereby assert to our Yemeni people and to the world and Arab public opinion that the political organization and our progressive regime has no connection with this bad individual behavior which totally contradicts all norms and usages.

Our great Yemeni people, the Unified Political Organization-National Front, which has carried out the struggle and has been capable of scoring one victory after another since the eruption of the glorious 14 October 1963 is also capable of overcoming all crises and of striking against any attempt to harm the progressive gains achieved by our Yemeni people throughout their long struggle.

Under the current circumstances, we should practice revolutionary vigilance and rally around the Unified Political Organization-National Front as well as around the decisions of the Central Committee and its Politburo for the sake of safeguarding all the revolutionary achievements of our people and consolidating the struggle traditions of the great Yemeni people.

Our Unified Political Organization--National Front well realizes as always, that the ambitions of the forces which view the progress of our Yemeni people as a source of disturbance to them, will not be able to drag the Yemeni people to the brink of war and division between the two parts of the one homeland.

Our Unified Political Organization-National Front asserts its eagerness to avoid everything which would incite fratricide amont the ranks of the Yemeni people. It also asserts its eagerness to establish normal and friendly relations with all brothers and friends and with the countries of the area based on nonintervention in domestic affairs and respect for national sovereignty.

Sons of the great Yemeni people, on this occasion we would like to greet with pride and honor our armed forces, the people's police [ash-shurttah ash-sha'biyah], the people's militia, the state security and the people's forces for their vigilant stands protecting the organizational legitimacy represented in the collective command and its commitment and firm implementation of the decisions of the Central Committee and its Politburo. The military establishment, under our national and democratic regime, will continue to be the faithful and loyal shield of the revolution and its revolutionary vanguard--the Unified Political Organization-National Front.

The Unified Political Organization-National Front will continue always to be loyal and faithful to the two revolutions of 26 September and 14 October. The Politburo and the Central Committee will continue the revolution's procession until all the objective of the Yemeni revolution are achieved.

Long live the collective command and down forever with the individual line. Long live the Unified Political Organization-National Fronts and glory to our great people.

Issued by the Central Committee of the Unified Political Organization--National Front on 26 June 1978.

AL-HASANI TO BE NEW PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

JN2616577Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Law No 28 of 1978: In accordance with the decision issued by the Central Committee at its extraoridinary session on 26 June 1978, and after taking cognizance of articles 91 and 119 of the constitution, the committee has decided:

Article 1: The Presidential Council commissions brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani--with the post of chairman of the Presidential Council in the PDRY.

Article 2: This law shall come into force as of the date of its issuance.

Article 3: This law shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued by the Presidential Office on 18 Rajab 1398 Hegira corresponding to 26 June 1978.

Will Remain Prime Minister

JN261717Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1647 GMT 27 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Law No 29 of 1978, taking cognizance of Articles 91 and 101 of the constitution, decides:

Article 1: Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani is empowered to continue in office. [as prime minister].

Article 2: This law shall come into force as of the date of its issuance.

Article 3: This law shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Presidential Office on 18 Rajab 1398 Hegira corresponding to 26 June 1978.

SALIM RUBAYYI' 'ALI SURRENDERS TO NATIONAL FRONT

PA262001Y Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT 26 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Beirut, June 27 (AFP)--Former South Yemeni President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali has surrendered to officials of the country's single National Front Party, a reliable source said here today. The surrender followed allegations by the party that Mr Rubayyi' 'Ali had failed in an attempt to seize control of the country, the same source said. The ex-president is now in the hands of the party's Central Committee, it was said.

'Ali Executed

LD262109Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2039 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brothers: Here is important news. After inflicting heavy losses on our people, Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, and with him Jasim Salih and Ali Salim al-A'war, have surrendered. A special court was formed to try this deviate group which committed the most terrible crimes against the people, went against the constitution and laws and collective decisions of the Central Committee and its Politbureau and inflicted heavy losses on the revolution and the gains of the people and workers. The court sentenced them to death by firing squad. This sentence was carried out immediately after its approval by the Presidential Council.

SITUATION REPORTED CALM; RADIO RESUMES NORMAL BROADCASTS

JN270742Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 27 June--A report from the INA correspondent in Aden this morning says that the situation in the PDRY capital is calm and the sound of gunfire has completely disappeared.

Aden radio signed off at midnight last night and resumed normal transmission at 0600 today. It carried a normal newscast that included a repetition of the statements carried yesterday evening, primarily the statement on the execution of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, chairman of the Presidential Council, and Jasim Salih and 'Ali Salim al-A'war, members of the Unified Political Organization-National Front. After that the radio carried a commentary stressing the Unified Political Organization-National Front's concern about consultation and coordination with YAR officials in the interest of the people in the northern and southern parts of Yemen.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ADEN, OUTSIDE WORLD RESTORED

JN271020Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 27 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 27 June--Internal telephone communication between Aden and the governorates and communication with the outside world were restored today. Communications were cut off yesterday after the abortive coup attempt. The INA correspondent reports that the Yemeni authorities today allowed private cars to pass through certain streets in the capital and in the At-Tawwahi quarter where the Presidential Palace, which was bombed yesterday, is located.

YEMEN--YAR

NATIONAL MOURNING FOR AL-GHASHMI ANNOUNCED

JN242015Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Text] The Presidential Council has announced that national mourning will be observed for 40 days, and flags will fly half mast during the same period. Prayers will be held for 7 days in all parts of Yemen for the sout of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. Work in the government and other departments shall continue as usual.

May God have mercy on the soul of the martyr and make paradise his abode. We are from God and to God shall we return.

SAUDI CONDOLENCES ON ASSASSINATION STRESSED

JN251915 [Editorial report--JN] San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic devotes its newcast at 1700 GMT on 25 June to messages of condolence received on the assassination of President al-Ghashmi and to declarations of mourning for him. Saudi Arabia figures prominently in the news cast. The second item, following the announcement of the funeral plans, says that messages of condolence have been received from King Khalid, Crown Prince Fahd and Prince Sultan, and that Presidential Council Chairman al-'Arashi has replied to them. Subsequent items report that the governor of Mecca has presented condolences to the YAR Embassy in Jidda and that the embassy there announced that it would be ready to receive condolences for the next 3 days.

The only mention of the PDRY, blaming its leader Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali for the assassination, comes in the commentary at the end of the newscast.

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING ON AL-GHASHMI DEATH REQUESTED

NC261023Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0937 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] San'a', 26 June--The YAR today called for a meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the assassination of President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. This was stated by Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj in reply to a question by the MENA correspondent in San'a'.

In his statement to MENA Al-Asnaj said: We have asked for a meeting of the Arab League Council, and we have expressed our readiness to receive an envoy of the Arab League secretary general to take part in the investigation which is taking place here. Asked about the work of the Investigation Committee, he said: The committee has discovered irrefutable facts which will be submitted to his excellency the chairman of the YAR Presidential Council by the chairman of the Investigation Committee, Minister of Justice Judge 'Ali as-Samman, prior to their publication within the next 2 days.

Asked about the perpetrator of the crime, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj said: The perpetrator of the crime was a liaison officer and a special emissary of Salim Rubayyi' to the martyr of the nation, President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. He came following a telephone conversation which took place at 2015 Friday, the day before the crime was committed.

Asked about the fate of the culprit's body and the special plane which brought him to San'a', he said: The remains of the criminal's body will be buried. The South Yemeni plane is still being detained by the responsible authorities for the purpose of the investigation.

Investigation Committee Formed

JN241918Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Presidential Council Decision No 4 of 1978]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the constitution and the statement of the People's Constituent Assembly on the formation of the Presidential Council, and following the approval of the Presidential Council, has declared:

Article 1: An investigation committee to investigate the criminal assassination of the martyr Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, shall be formed and will include:

1. Al-Qadi 'Ali as-Samman, minister of justice, chairman.
2. 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Majid al-Asnaj, minister of foreign affairs, member.
3. Lt Col Muhsin al-Yusufi, minister of the interior, member.
4. Lt Col Lutfi al-Kinabi, adviser to the Interior Ministry, member.
5. Al-Qadi Ghalib 'Abdallah Rajih, member of the People's Constituent Assembly, member.
6. The deputy minister and prosecutor general, member.
7. Maj 'Abdallah Qahtan, member.

Article 2: The committee referred to in Article 1 shall begin its work forthwith.

Article 3: This decision shall come into force as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 19 Rajab 1398 Hegira corresponding to 24 June 1978.

[Signed] The chairman of the Presidential Council, 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi

Foreign Minister Makes Statement

NC261222Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1126 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Jidda, 26 June--'Abdallah al-Asnaj, YAR foreign minister and member of the committee investigating the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi, has stated that the investigation into the incident is being continued under the supervision of the justice minister.

Referring to the identity of the envoy of PDRY President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, Al-Asnaj said that the envoy was a liaison officer at the presidential office in Aden. But when the envoy arrived in San'a', he introduced himself simply as the special envoy of President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali. Through the conversation held with the envoy at San'a' airport, it is known that his first name was "'Abduh."

In a telephone interview he granted to the newspaper AL-MADINAH, published by the paper today, the YAR foreign minister added that the PDRY Dakota plane which airlifted the envoy of President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali is still being held in San'a', together with its crew.

Al-Asnaj said that this envoy came to San'a' in accordance with a telephone conversation Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi held at 2015 last Friday with Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali who had informed Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi that he would send him an important letter by special envoy.

Concerning the Aden Government's denial of its responsibility for the crime, Al-Asnaj said: We affirm that the person who arrived in San'a' was the envoy of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali of the southern part of Yemen. The Yemeni officials met him at San'a' airport in accordance with the Arab ethics and noble traditions for which these officials are known. The envoy was then taken to President al-Ghashmi's office in the command building. The envoy carried a briefcase, and all those who saw it are agreed that it was the same briefcase which exploded and killed President al-Ghashmi.

About the reason for delaying the announcement of the incident--because the incident occurred yesterday morning and was announced only in the evening--Al-Asnaj said: It was imperative to take constitutional measures and accomplish them in order to deny the masterminds of the crime the opportunity to realize the objectives and purposes they sought to achieve by perpetrating this crime.

He added that when the incident occurred, the country's civilian, political and military organs held urgent consultations to prepare for facing the possibilities which might have been intended to be achieved through the crime, and there was no other reason for delaying the announcement.

Concluding his interview with the Saudi paper, Al-Asnaj said that what had happened was that an evil crime had been exported from Aden and skillfully perpretrated in San'a'. He affirmed that this crime had been masterminded in Aden.

In a dispatch from San'a', the Saudi newspaper AR-RIYAD today reports that a new Yemeni Government is expected to be formed within the next few hours.

The formation of the cabinet was scheduled to be announced last night.

SAN'A' REPORTS FUNERAL, SAUDI, IRAQI, OMANI PARTICIPATION

JN2613422Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] At 1000 today, the Yemen Arab Republic buried with great sorrow and grief the body of the martyr of the homeland and the innocent son of Yemen Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic, who was the victim of treason, betrayal and terrorism.

Attending the funeral were Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the Presidential Council; the ministers; members of the People's Constituent Assembly; Shaykh Muhammad Husayn al-Ghashmi, the martyr's brother, and his other brothers; senior officials; commanders of army units; members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in San'a'; Yemen's notables; and masses of citizens. Also in the cortege were delegations from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The funeral procession started from Al-'Urbi Mosque after prayers had been said for the martyr's chaste soul. It then moved on to the martyrs' cemetery with the body of the martyr shrouded in the national flag of the republic and carried on a military vehicle. Token units from the armed forces were walking in front of the body in an awe-inspiring procession. The procession went to the martyrs' cemetery moving with great difficulty among the masses that have been coming to San'a' since early morning to participate in the cortege of martyr Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi.

When the funeral procession arrived at the martyrs' cemetery, the chaste body was buried and prayers were read. At the end of the burial ceremony, the chairman and members of the Presidential Council and the martyr's brothers stood in line to receive the condolences of the notables participating in the cortege.

May God have mercy on our martyr and grant our people and the martyr's family solace. From God we come and to Him we return.

ATH-THAWRAH SPECULATES ON ORIGIN OF EXPLOSIVE BRIEFCASE

JN271010Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 27 Jun 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 27 June--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH published here expresses its belief today that the briefcase with the bomb which killed President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi might have been switched. The paper points out that Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali "perhaps did intend to deliver a message through his envoy, that the briefcase was perhaps replaced by the explosive briefcase and that the message was thus delivered."

SAN'A' CALLS FOR FOILING PLOTS OF SOUTH YEMEN CLIQUE

JN261435Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1414 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Unattributed talks]

[Text] Masses of our people in the north and in the south: The ruling clique in Aden does not want stability, growth and prosperity for you. By its criminal acts against the people in the north and in the south, it seeks to make you [words indistinct] exactly as it has starved the sons of the people in the south for the last 10 years. It seeks to upset your developing, prosperous life in the north--a developing and prosperous life thanks to the 5-year plan. It also seeks to deprive you of the blessings of stability and building under a guenine democratic life. However, the Yemeni people in the north and in the south are aware of the role of this clique and will foil all its suspect plans because they are eager to maintain a free, stable and dignified life.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE ON ISRAELI REJECTION OF PLAN

NC2613377 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source has made the following comment on the Israeli Government decision rejecting what it called the Egyptian proposal concerning the West Bank and Gaza: This decision again raises questions regarding Israel's true intentions. It is strange that Israel, which has taken more than a month to prepare a reply to the U.S. Government questions--which, as a matter of fact, is not considered a reply but a repetition of previous positions characterized by intransigence and lack of true desire to go along with the sincere peace efforts--has now hastened to reject an Egyptian plan which has not yet been made final, and Israel knows nothing of the details.

By its position, which is indicative of its nervousness and its annoyance with the world's good reaction to the idea President as-Sadat has outlined in general terms in his press statements, Israel is trying to obstruct the peace efforts. This is the same attempt which was manifested in its response to the questions the United States put to it with a view to finding a suitable basis for proceeding on the road to a just and comprehensive peace. This road was opened by President as-Sadat, and Israel has from the beginning been seeking to place obstacles in its way.

This new attitude on the part of Israel confirms what Egypt has repeatedly declared and what the whole world has become convinced of--that the main obstacle to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace is the position that the Begin government takes.

FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL MEETS U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC2613447 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 June--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil this afternoon met with Mr Hermann Eilts, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, at the ambassador's request. The U.S. ambassador stated before his meeting with the foreign minister that he requested the meeting in order to discuss matters and preparations connected with the visit to Egypt of U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, which is scheduled for next Monday. During this visit the U.S. vice president will hold important talks with President Anwar as-Sadat as part of the efforts being exerted to find a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

The U.S. ambassador said after the meeting, which lasted about 1 hour, that U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale's visit to Egypt will last several hours, during which he will have talks with President Anwar as-Sadat within the framework of driving the peace efforts forward and reaching a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ambassador Eilts said that Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil informed him of the Egyptian reaction to the Israeli rejection of the Egyptian proposals regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The U.S. ambassador denied that he discussed the proposed London meeting with Ibrahim Kamil today. He said that today's meeting was a continuation of the consultations the United States is holding with Egypt regarding the next steps for a comprehensive peace in the area.

Kamil Makes Statement

NC261606Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has said that Egypt is preparing its plan and proposals regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These proposals will be presented to the United States for submission to Israel.

The foreign minister expressed hope that the plan would be completed in a few days. He added that everyone is astonished by Israel's latest stand following its cabinet meeting and its rejection of proposals which have not been announced and which have not been presented to them. He said that although Israel took 2 months to answer the U.S. proposals, yesterday it rejected something which had not even been presented to it.

The foreign minister said that the general principles of the plan are based on withdrawal from the Arab territories, complete peace and good relations with neighboring states. He said that Egypt is seeking a declaration of principles. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that his meeting with the U.S. ambassador today was part of the consultations with Washington. He said he and the ambassador exchanged views on the situation. He added that he told the U.S. ambassador he was astonished at Israel's rejection of proposals which had not been presented to it.

Answering a question about a meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state in London, the foreign minister said that he has received no proposals in this respect.

About the situation in South Yemen, the foreign minister said that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has not received any information about the situation in Yemen.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil had met with the U.S. ambassador, who said later that they discussed the visit which U.S. Vice President Mondale will pay Egypt on 3 July. The visit will last several hours, during which Mondale will have talks with President as-Sadat. The ambassador said that he received Egypt's answer to Israel's decision yesterday.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTS ON ISRAELI MANEUVERING

NC261626Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Fawzi Surur commentary: "A New Link in Chain of Israeli Deceptive Maneuvers"]

[Excerpts] Following its weekly meeting yesterday, which lasted 3 and a half hours, the Israeli Government rejected President as-Sadat's proposal on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The proposal calls for returning the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt as it was before the 1967 war, provided that negotiations be held among the parties concerned to agree on a settlement of the so-called Israeli security problem.

Observers have noted that even before the Egyptian proposal was officially presented to Israel, an Israeli Government spokesman made a statement to reporters announcing Israel's rejection of the Egyptian proposal.

Begin and his extremist group have embarked on negative actions, deception, evasiveness, stalling and freezing the current situation in favor of Israel and its aggressive plan. Begin cannot see the real situation except through his aggressive history, his bloody terrorist actions and his colonization and expansionist policy. This policy seeks the establishment of the so-called greater Israel, which is the major dream of Zionism. Begin is one of the traditional guardians and rabbis of Zionism.

Cairo, based on its firm belief in the establishment of peace, has proposed the return of the occupied West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt. Cairo realizes that no efforts should be spared for a sound political solution. It is known that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had been under Jordanian and Egyptian administration respectively; hence, what Cairo is now calling for is not a new measure, and it cannot possibly irritate or stir up the Israeli Government or the Israeli leaders unless the Israeli leaders harbor the intention of not withdrawing from the Arab territory and of evading a solution of the Palestinian question, a solution to the Palestinian question in accordance with international laws, the UN resolutions and complete world support for safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people.

Therefore, the new Israeli stand is ambiguous and evasive. It is similar to Begin's stand evading an answer to the U.S. questions on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the end of the 5 years proposed by Israel. This stand is compatible with the administrative division of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as proposed by Foreign Minister Dayan. All these plans are in accordance with the Israeli colonization policy and with the attempts to foil the efforts for peace, which we and all the honest forces in the world are seeking.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM EXPECTS U.S. INITIATIVE IN MIDEAST

LD261800Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 24 Jun 78 p 7 LD

['Abd al-Hamid 'Abd al-Ghani article: "The Imposed Solution"]

[Excerpts] There are many signs indicating that developments are likely to take place in the next few weeks that would lead to activating the political situation which has been stagnant for several months.

Should this happen--and I repeat that there are signs and movements indicating that it will--the "credit" will go to the intransigent and inflexible stands which Menahem Begin has been adopting since he came to power and which have now brought him to a dead end, especially after his vague and meaningless answer with which he rebuffed the United States and provoked world opinion, even inside Israel.

What did Menahem Begin say in his answer to two questions put to him by the U.S. Government? What did he say after taking 2 months to read the questions and answering them as if these questions never occurred to him before?

He said: First I want peace and I am not prepared to offer anything in return for peace.

We all know the nature of the peace that Israel wants. Preliminary talks took place between Egypt and Israel regarding the nature of this peace, and it has become known that the peace Israel wants should be based on the establishment of normal relations, whether political, commercial, informational, touristic or other forms of relations that are normally established between countries that desire neighborly relations or seek to develop relations between them.

In the case of a treaty for the achievement of such a peace being signed, Israel agrees that the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza sector should exercise self-rule for a period of 5 years under an Israeli military presence. The 5-year period begins from the date the peace treaty is signed, the preparation for which and agreement on the provisions of which are bound to take a long time, during which prolonged and complex negotiations will take place.

After the lapse of the period necessary for the establishment of peace and of the 5-year period of self-rule, then any of the parties can raise the question of the future of these two areas--the West Bank and Gaza sector--provided that it be understood from now on that Israel will not accept such a future being based on the establishment of a Palestinian homeland or a Palestinian political entity.

There was an uproar in Israel over this answer, and many cabinet and Knesset members objected to it. What was the point of this uproar and these objections? The point was that there is no need for the Israeli Government to say today that it will never accept a Palestinian homeland or entity. In other words, Menahem Begin wanted to decide from now that what he calls Judaea and Samaria are part of the State of Israel. His opponents in Israel and friends in the United States were dismayed; he was so clear and firm that he will find himself in a difficult confrontation with the United States.

All his friends and opponents agree on one thing: this tactic by Menahem Begin is the latest in the series of his intransigent and provocative stands and is bound to pave the way to what they term "the imposed solution."

They regard Begin's vague and negative answer as an open invitation to the United States to come forward with its proposals so as to activate the deadlocked situation and to open the way for serious negotiations in quest of the desired peace.

Thus Israel will find itself face to face with the U.S. peace plan and with what they call "the imposed solution," the solution which Israel and its friends fear more than anything else for many reasons, including:

First, however the United States sympathizes with Israel--sympathy that cannot be denied or ignored--it is bound to place its strategic, military, financial and trade interests above the narrow interests that are governed by Zionist complexes, party politics and objectives which might be contrary to U.S. interests.

Second, any new U.S. proposals are bound to take into consideration the many proposals and ideas which President Carter has put forward since he made the Middle East problem one of his priority political tasks and through which he has opened the new doors in the U.S. policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, a U.S. policy which is closer to right, justice and principles of human rights than that of the previous U.S. administrations.

Moreover, the United States is bound to incorporate in its proposals the Security Council resolution to which it committed itself from the beginning and which the whole world community has endorsed. The resolution calls for Israeli withdrawal on all fronts, for which reason it has deliberately ignored referring to it in its vague answer. The U.S. proposals are also bound to be based on the well-known "Aswan formula," on which Presidents as-Sadat and Carter agreed at their summit meeting in Aswan last winter.

All this would make such proposals closer to right and justice, on the basis on which we want a stable peace to be established in this part of the world.

This imminent U.S. step is in fact the only remaining road that could lead to continuing the current peace efforts. Therefore, we would expect the United States to take such a step in the near future as long as it is committed to establishing a just peace in this area, which is now the target of international ambitions more than at any time in the past.

EGYPT DECLARES MOURNING FOR YAR'S AL-GHASHMI

NC261400Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 June--The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to proclaim a 7-day mourning period for the death of YAR President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. Flags will be flown at half-mast over all government buildings.

EGYPT DECLARES MOURNING FOR SALIM RUBAYYI' 'ALI

NC270731Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0429 GMT 27 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 June--The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to observe a 7-day mourning period for the death of PDRY Presidential Council Chairman Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali.

AL-AKHBAR WARNS OF 'MARXIST AMBITIONS' IN PDRY

NC270638Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 27 Jun 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The three Cairo newspapers published this morning prominently report the military coup which took place in Aden yesterday, during which PDRY President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali was overthrown and executed by firing squad. The papers explain that 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the National Front and Moscow's man in Aden, led the coup. He had also appointed 'Ali Nasir Muhammad as chairman of the Presidential Council. The papers note that the Aden president was executed following violent and bloody battles that lasted throughout yesterday between the president's supporters and the party militia, led by 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

On this subject and under the title "Yemen Will Not Be an Easy Prey for the Communists," the paper AL-AKHBAR says today: The successive incidents which took place within hours in the north and south of Yemen preoccupied the whole world yesterday. While the funeral of the YAR president was being held, planes pounded the presidential palace in the PDRY and artillery fighting raged in several places. The paper adds: Regardless of the causes and effects of all these events, this action cannot possibly be accepted by an Arab loyal to his Arabism. Furthermore, this action can bring no good, either for Yemen itself or for the Arab nation in general.

In its article the paper points out that these horrible incidents resulted from the Marxist presence in the PDRY and the existence of the agents and puppets who have made a Soviet base out of the PDRY in order to serve the objectives of Marxist communism and entrench its ambitions. The paper says that one would be naive to think that these horrible events which have devastated Yemen can end within the framework from which they began.

The paper also says that one would be naive to think that these events will not go further than the fighting and strafing of the offices of the president and prime minister, but these events mark the beginning of a long round--and no one knows what the results will be. However, we believe that Yemen will not be an easy prey for Marxist ambitions and that the PDRY will not be a Marxist base against the Arabs and Africa.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The round might be a long one and plots and concoctions might take place. However, the ambitions of communism will be crushed in the land of the Arabs and the puppets and agents of communism will disappear from the scene.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY APPROVES EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

NC2618502 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly met today under the chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Dr Sayyid 'Ali as-Sayyid todiscuss the Legislative Committee's report on expelling 'Abd al-Fattah Hasan and Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri from the assembly.

The assembly approved by 273 votes to 26 the committee's recommendation to expel 'Abd al-Fattah Hasan in implementation of Law 33 of 1978 for the protection of the national front. There were 61 members absent. The chairman declared that the seat for Basyun constituency in Al-Gharbiyah Province has been vacated in order that byelections may be held. The assembly is discussing the other report on Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri, member of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party,in accordance with a letter from the socialist public prosecutor to the People's Assembly accusing him of violating the constitution and the law and of offenses against the protection of the national front.

PROSECUTOR BEGINS INTERROGATING JOURNALIST

NC2515152 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 25 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 June--Muhammad Tawfiq Haddad, prosecution chief at the Socialist Prosecutor General's Office, today began interrogating Salah 'Isa, a journalist with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, on articles slandering Egypt reportedly published by him in the Beirut press. The interrogation was attended by the defendant's lawyer, Faruq Muhammad Ahmad, and by Journalists Association member Jamal Hamdi as the representative of the association. The interrogation of Salah 'Isa will be resumed on Tuesday.

SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR TALKS

NC2616532 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 26 June--Sudanese Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir arrived in Alexandria this afternoon to attend the meetings of the sixth session of the Higher Ministerial Committee for Integration between the two countries. He is accompanied by the Sudanese delegation to the discussions.

The Sudanese vice president was welcomed at Janaklis airport by the ministers who are members of the Egyptian side to the discussions. The discussions will start tomorrow at the prime minister's office in Bulkeley.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON IRAQI CP, RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD241332Y London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jun 78 pp 12, 13 LD

[Ghazi al-'Ayyash article: "On Formation of Communist Organizations Inside Iraqi Army--Final Warning to Iraqi Communist Party"]

[Excerpts] If we were to take what was recently reported and said about Iraq, put it in the form of questions, and give ourselves the right to answer these questions on the basis of the current reality in Iraq and of the facts as we clearly see them at close quarters, what would these questions and answers be?

If the parties, or more specifically the Iraqi Communist Party, were to withdraw from the "National Front," does this mean that the front would collapse?

The answer is that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has often asserted the need to encompass all the nationalist forces within the front and stressed that these forces must understand that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party alone led the revolution and its achievements, that these forces came after the Ba'th Party succeeded in its revolution and that, therefore, the revolution has no intention of departing from its program or strategy. But the Iraqi Communist Party, which has links abroad, did not give up its old methods of fishing in troubled waters and exploiting and magnifying certain shortcomings and negative aspects as a means of blackmail. The Iraqi Communist Party has been constantly cautioned against resorting to such methods, but to no avail. It appears that it insists on pursuing such methods and on obstructing the strengthening of the alliance of forces and the progress of the revolution that aims at building a strong Arab base in the country and broadening the Ba'th Party base. Its aim is to prevent Iraq from becoming the center of gravity in the area because this does not agree with Soviet strategy, which is opposed to the strategy of the Arab revolution that seeks to achieve Arab unity, build socialism, do away with imperialism and liquidate Zionism. The Iraqi Communist Party has never allied itself with any faction without trying to break the agreement with the faction and pounce on it in order to attain power. But the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which has experienced all kinds of struggle and has deep roots among the people and society, has always prevented the Iraqi Communist Party from winning such a battle. Had the Iraqi Communist Party been innocent, it would not have formed cells inside the Iraqi Army and tried to undermine the revolution that has been generous to it and reinstated it among the people.

Despite this behavior by the Iraqi Communist Party, the Ba'th Party is anxious to maintain the National Front experiment and to preserve all its achievements, as well as to try to deepen, develop and bolster a strong alliance between the parties in the front. But if any of these parties wishes to leave the front, even if this should be the Iraqi Communist Party, the National Front will continue to exist, thanks to the masses and the strength of the Ba'th Party. This is because the Iraqi Communist Party is not a force to be reckoned with in the balance of power but rather is a minority compared with the masses of the Ba'th Party. The Iraqi Communist Party knows well the strength it represents in comparison with the other forces participating in the front, such as the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, the Progressive Nationalists, and the Independent Democrats. But if the Iraqi Communist Party acts against the wishes of the revolution, it must shoulder the blame and will have no influence on the course of developments but rather will be the sole loser.

Have the military personnel who were executed confessed that they belonged to the Iraqi Communist Party or to any other communist organizations, and have other cells been discovered in the armed forces?

The answer is that it was the Iraqi Communist Party that involved them and, therefore, it alone is responsible. All the defendants have confessed that they were organized by the Iraqi Communist Party. As for the discovery of other communist cells in the armed forces, no cells have been discovered so far. However, this should not prevent us from warning the Iraqi Communist Party that, if it still has people in communist cells inside the armed forces, it should be honest and instruct such people to leave such organizations and the army as well, because, otherwise, the army will deal with them with its well-known method. The Iraqi Communist Party will be taught a hard lesson if it does not deal honorably with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and does not stop involving people who trusted it.

Have the communists attended the meeting held by the parties in the National Front following the execution of communist military personnel?

Yes, the parties to the National Front held a meeting which the Communist Party attended. The party representatives at the meeting said sweet things outwardly while inwardly harboring ill intentions, as was said by a Progressive Democrat who attended the meeting. It had been customary for the Nationalist Front on the occasion of the anniversary of oil nationalization to send a congratulatory telegram to the Revolution Command Council. The parties in the front proposed sending such a telegram on the occasion of this anniversary, 1 June, but suddenly the Communist Party asked that the matter be postponed and discussed at another time. This was an attempt by the party to play this card as a means of political extortion. The Communist Party also asked that the National Front meeting be reported in the press, but the majority of parties turned down this proposal. However, after some time the Iraqi Communist Party circulated reports to its rank and file alleging that it has been against the reporting of the meeting in the press and taking pictures of the meeting.

Has Iraq decided to abrogate the Iraqi-Soviet treaty or to ask for the amendment of some of its provisions?

The answer is that there is nothing in the Iraqi-Soviet treaty that violates Iraqi independence or policy. Rather, it affirms equality and noninterference in internal affiars. Iraq is interested in developing this treaty while maintaining the line of equality and noninterference in internal affairs, as well as in the Soviet Union's fulfilling all its commitments in supporting Iraq with armaments and economic material.

The various Ba'th Party circles have underlined the policy of cooperation and commitment to the spirit of the treaty. The circles affirmed that Iraq will not choose another road than this, because it believes that there is wide scope for cooperation with the Soviet Union in various fields. And because Iraq has its own national objectives, it believes that its cooperation with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries is a great achievement. Iraq's attitude will not change unless the Soviet Union changes its attitude. Relations with the Soviet Union are not based on temporary and expedient considerations, but rather on strategic tasks linked to our Arab struggle against imperialism, reaction and Zionism.

Iraq is serious about developing friendship between the two countries, and Iraqi officials hope that Soviet officials will understand Iraq's attitude and help it--on the level of Moscow's establishments--to strengthen its attitude, which events have proved is its great struggle potential, and will also understand that the Revolution Command in Iraq is influential not only among the masses in Iraq but also in the Arab area as a whole.

What is Iraq's attitude toward Soviet and Cuban intervention in the Horn of Africa and particularly against the Eritrean people, and has Iraq carried out contacts in this regard with Moscow and Havana?

The answer is that consultations regarding events in the area or in any part of the world are part and parcel of the Iraqi-Soviet treaty. The Iraqi attitude is well known in the Arab area and the Horn of Africa. The Ba'th Party supported the Eritrean revolution even before assuming power. After assuming power it doubled its political, military and economic support because the Eritrean people are part of the Arab people and the Ethiopians colonized this part as a result of a U.S.-British-Ethiopian conspiracy during Haile Selassie's regime. Iraq supports the Eritrean people, their independence and right to self-determination. Through its consultations with the Soviet Union, Iraq advised against military intervention against the Eritrean people. Although the Soviet Union intervened militarily against Somalia, the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict is something different. The Soviet Union must avoid military intervention on the side of Ethiopia because such intervention would arouse feelings against it in the area since the Eritrean problem is different from the Somali problem. The Eritrean revolution is a popular revolution, and the Soviet Union is supposed to stand with and not against the Eritrean people's right to self-determination in accordance with the Marxist theory that calls for giving peoples the right to self-determination. Iraq gave similar advice to the Cubans, who assured Iraq that they are not intervening militarily against Eritrea and that they are in favor of a peaceful solution but within the framework of the integrity of Ethiopia--in other words, granting self-rule to Eritrea. The Soviet Union also assured Iraq that it is not intervening militarily against Eritrea, but all signs indicate and the general belief is that the Soviet Union is, in fact, intervening militarily against Eritrea. Such an intervention is a grave sign in Soviet policy, particularly since it is firmly believed that the United States is driving the Horn of Africa toward destruction so that it will eventually try to contain the situation with the help of Mengistu himself, whom Moscow considers its strongman in Ethiopia.

AFGHAN PLANNING MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TRADE TALKS

JN231312Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 June--Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and trade minister, received here today Soltan Ali Keshtmand, Afghan planning minister, and the members of his delegation. During this meeting, the two sides discussed trade relations and the means to facilitate and diversify trade between the two countries.

Hasan 'Ali assured the Afghan delegation of the Iraqi Trade Ministry's willingness to train a number of Afghans in the trade sector.

3-DAY MOURNING ON DEATH OF AL-GHASHMI PROCLAIMED

JN261628Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has sent a cable of condolences to Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, speaker of the YAR People's Constituent Assembly, expressing his deep sorrow and that of the Jordanian people and government on the death of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. He wished the fraternal Yemeni people continued progress.

The Royal Hashemite Court has proclaimed a 3-day mourning in the Royal Court on the death of the late colonel.

AR-RA'Y Comments

JN271022Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jun 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Editorial: "Destruction in the South"]

[Excerpts] The stage of self-destruction in the Arab world is reaching its peak away from the areas of confrontation with the Zionist enemy, but in areas which are of strategic importance to the Arab-Zionist struggle.

It is obvious that the forces which share Arab resources and wealth are now clashing in the south of the Arabian Peninsula, where the president of North Yemen was killed and the president of South Yemen was overthrown in an obvious attempt to arrange conditions in that part of the Arab world.

What is taking place in both Yemens is only a symptom of self-destruction in the Arab body. The dispersion of the flock has given the wolves their biggest chance to pounce on their prey without fear of any resistance from the sleeping shepherds.

Nevertheless, we believe that our Arab League is aware of the fact that what is taking place in the south is linked to what is taking place in the north, east and west, because the present condition of the Arab body provides an ideal opportunity for the big surgeons to amputate its limbs so as to guarantee their control of the Arabs of both north and south.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CSSR SIGNED IN AMMAN

JN241615Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 24 June--A trade agreement between Jordan and Czechoslovakia was signed today at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The agreement provides for an increase in trade between the two countries, the achievement of equilibrium in the balance of trade between them, an increase in Jordanian phosphates exported to Czechoslovakia, the establishment of joint projects and the encouragement of participation in trade fairs held in either country.

The two sides also signed the minutes of the meetings held between them. The minutes stressed the need to increase contacts and the exchange of visits between trade officials of the two countries, to exchange information and expertise and to encourage contacts between the chambers of commerce and industry in the two countries. The agreement and the minutes were signed for Jordan by Dr Hashim ad-Dabbas, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and for Czechoslovakia by Trade Minister Jakubik.

LIBYA

MOURNING TO MARK DEATH OF YAR PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED

LD2709 26Y Tripoli JANA in English 0812 GMT 27 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, June 26, JANA--Three days of mourning have been announced in the Jamahiriyah for the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the Arab Republic of Yemen.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONGRESS ENDS, ISSUES STATEMENT

LD2616 44Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 26 June--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress ended its meeting yesterday evening at the conference hall of Ash-Shati' Hotel in Tripoli after 4 days of deliberations.

The Permanent Secretariat issued a number of resolutions at the end of its meetings yesterday.

After reviewing the work of the Preparatory Committee dealing with the trial of the Egyptian president and of the Information Committee, the Permanent Secretariat decided that the trial of the Egyptian president shall begin immediately in light of the measures adopted by the secretariat, which has already completed the formation of the trial bodies: the prosecution panel and the court panel.

In this regard, the Permanent Secretariat has decided to hold a world press conference in Damascus to announce the bill of indictment against the Egyptian president, who is charged with high treason. The trial will take place in Baghdad at a date to be fixed by the permanent secretariat.

The Permanent Secretariat has decided to entrust the chief of the delegations of Syria, the PLO and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement to submit working papers on the practical measures which are likely to bolster the national and progressive Arab forces in Syria and within the ranks of the Palestine revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

The Permanent Secretariat decided to provide urgent support for the Egyptian national movement by participating in some of the political activities of the Egyptian opposition.

The secretariat also decided to hold a celebration marking the 23 July Revolution anniversary at a pan-Arab level. The celebration commemorating this Egyptian revolution will be held in Damascus and will be organized by the secretariat and Syria. Preparations for it will be made by all the parties to the secretariat, which will issue a political document on the occasion evaluating the historic significance of the 23 July Revolution and its effect on the current national struggle. The document will explain the effects of the Egyptian president's apostasy and his betrayal of the objectives of this revolution and the Arab revolution. The document broadcast on the eve of 23 July by the radios of Damascus, Baghdad, Aden, Algiers and Tripoli.

Following its sixth session, the Permanent Secretariat also decided to accept an invitation to visit the USSR to consolidate the close, strong relations between the USSR and the Arab national liberation movement.

Continuing its efforts to consolidate the unity of the Arab vocational and trade unionist organizations, the Permanent Secretariat decided to bolster the unity of the Arab Women's Federation.

The Permanent Secretariat affirmed its strong denunciation and condemnation of the growing imperialist role of the French Government in Africa and its aggression against the Arab people of the Western Sahara and its direct interference in Zaire and Chad. It called on all the national and progressive Arab and world forces to offer all material and moral aid to the Saharan people who are being subjected to a plot designed to annihilate them at the hands of reaction.

The Permanent Secretariat greeted the Libyan people's courage in the face of the imperialist plots in Africa and affirmed its support of the Arab national and progressive forces for the Jamahiriyah in its confrontation of imperialist moves.

The Permanent Secretariat decided to bolster the pan-Arab struggle in the Arab Gulf countries against the growing dangers to the Arab character of the Arab Gulf and to strengthen the struggle of the national and progressive Arab forces in this area, particularly that of the popular front for the liberation of Oman.

The Permanent Secretariat decided to promote relations with the world progressive and democratic forces through contacting the international political and progressive and democratic parties and organizations and explaining pan-Arab issues to them regularly.

At the end of its meeting, the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress issued the following statement:

The permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress met from 21 to 25 June 1978 in Tripoli, Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In this Sixth Session, the Permanent Secretariat reviewed the political Arab and international situations. It completed its work in an atmosphere of open democracy, thereby demonstrating the will of the masses of our Arab nation to counter all challenges of destiny.

This atmosphere manifested itself most clearly in the resolutions that were unanimously adopted, particularly those pertaining to the completion of preparations for the stages of the trial of the Egyptian president which, it was decided, should begin within the next few days with a largescale press conference to be held in Damascus where the bill of indictment will be announced. The trial itself will be held in Baghdad.

The court and prosecution panels have already been chosen from political and legal Arab strugglers from the various countries of the Arab homeland.

The Permanent Secretariat considers it its duty to assert to the masses of the Arab nation that the trial of the Egyptian president, who is the symbol of treason, is in fact a trial of all traitors who departed from the will of the nation and who deal with the Zionist enemy in whatever form.

The Permanent Secretariat reviewed conditions in the Arab homeland and adopted the relevant resolutions with a view to strengthening the capabilities of the Arab revolutionary struggle and rallying all resources of the Arab nation and its capabilities of struggle both materially and morally. The battle of destiny the Arab nation is fighting against imperialism and Zionism stems from its determination to achieve all its social and pan-Arab rights and from its intention to continue the struggle against settlement and capitulation in all its forms because it will lead to recognition of the Zionist entity.

Foremost of these resolutions is the assertion of the Palestine revolution's right to exist in southern Lebanon and to exercise armed struggle from all the Arab territories. The resolutions also provide for supporting the national and progressive Arab revolution forces including Syria, the PLO and the National Progressive Forces in Lebanon, and for bolstering their unity in the face of the Zionist enemy. The resolutions also provide for strengthening the front of steadfastness and confrontation by inviting Iraq to join it in accordance with a program for pan-Arab struggle.

They also provide for strengthening the Egyptian national movement, which is valiantly fighting the traitorous policy of the Egyptian president which squanders the pan-Arab rights, and is also fighting his measures of suppression and his flouting of democratic values.

It decided to strengthen the progressive regime in the PDRY and the national liberation movements and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman in order to safeguard the Arab nature of the gulf and check the dangers threatening it and to promote efforts to resolve the Eritrean problem.

The Permanent Secretariat reviewed the explosive situation on the African Continent because of the open imperialist interference and the armed aggression committed by France in agreement with NATO member countries and decided to denounce this interference because it clashes with the undoubted right of the people to self-determination, to safeguard their independence and to protect their security.

The Permanent Secretariat asserted that the criminal aggression committed against the peoples of the Sahara, Chad and Zaire, which has taken the form of a war of annihilation, constitutes a link in the imperialist-colonialist chain which is directed against the Arab nation and the African peoples alike. The open French aggression against Western Sahara and Chad aims, among other things, at posing a direct threat to the Algerian republic and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah because of their steadfastness in the face of the imperialist designs and their resistance to these designs through conhesion with the struggling African peoples and the national liberation movements.

The Permanent Secretariat greeted the POLISARIO and the South-West African People's Organization. Finally, the Permanent Secretariat greeted with pride and respect the Palestine revolutionary detachments and the valiant sons of southern Lebanon who are standing on the frontline in the face of the Zionist enemy and its mercenary, isolationist agents.

It also greeted with pride the sons of the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied Palestinian territory who are fighting against the Zionist occupation and are challenging its existence under most difficult and harsh conditions. It pledged to help them all. It pledged to the masses of the Arab nation to continue the struggle and escalate it on all fronts in order to undermine the plan capitulation and the policy of settlement and to purge the Arab land of traitors and agents.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress also greeted the socialist countries, first of all the USSR and the nonalined countries and the progressive democratic forces in the world which have stood and continue to stand on the side of our nation's struggle and against the deviation of the Egyptian president and his betrayal of pan-Arab and human rights.

The Permanent Secretariat will continue to strengthen its friendship with these countries through its conviction in the unity of the world struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

MOROCCO

KUWAITI AS-SIYASAH EDITOR INTERVIEWS KING HASSAN

LD241705Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] Here is the full text of the interview granted by King Hassan to the chief editor of the Kuwaiti AS-SIYASAH: [begin recording]

[Question] Your Majesty, in your last speech, you gave a new definition of confrontation states and supporting states; and you have said that Morocco is a confrontation state. Could you elaborate on this?

[Answer] It is a matter of fact that in the eyes of the Arab peoples, recent developments have divided the Arab world, at the level of its leaders, into two categories: the rejectionists and the traitors, and this in an (?artificial), unfair way. Looking into the matter, I have seen that the (?Moroccan bloodshed) gives me, gives Morocco the right to call itself one of the confrontation states. And I do not believe that any of the confrontation states could be said to have betrayed the Arab cause.

[Question] Your Majesty, what is Morocco's objective in being one of the confrontation states? Is it to secure a material gain, or instead a moral gain?

[Answer] In 1974, when billions of dollars were distributed at the Rabat summit conference, Morocco did not get a single piastre of the huge amounts of money distributed among the confrontation states, even when our friend Saddam Husayn drew attention to this at the session, saying: Let us give to all those who [words indistinct] and the Moroccan martyrs. I told him: Please, Morocco is your host country, and is the [words indistinct]. I believe that Morocco is not very well known in the east, and this is why you asked me about material gains. I say that the point at stake is above all a moral one.

[Question] Could we be given the figures on Moroccan losses in the October 1973 war?

[Answer] I personally believe that the cost to Morocco was between $350 and $400 million, in foreign exchange, naturally.

[Question] You were among those who supported and (?stood by) As-Sadat's initiative despite the criticism of your opponents. Do you believe that the time has now come for As-Sadat to abandon his initiative on the grounds that it has so far proved fruitless?

[Answer] When I stood by President Anwar as-Sadat [words indistinct] that made me bless his initiative. Now the question is whether we should continue tackling our problems as statesmen, or rather as youths or adults overwhelmed by passion, warmth and enthusiasm instead of reason and analysis [passage indistinct].

[Question] Criticism of As-Sadat mention that his initiative has adversely affected inter-Arab solidarity. [Words indistinct] do you think that, in this respect, Numayri will succeed in convening an Arab summit which will be attended by the parties to the dispute?

[Answer] I personally believe--and this is Morocco's (?logical position) on the question, and this is what I have personally said to my friend President Numayri--I believe that given the present situation in the Arab world the convening of an Arab summit has become the first priority [words indistinct] the Arab leaders should meet [words indistinct] with only this problem on the agenda, without any other problem. In such a summit only two points should be discussed: First, (?with what are we reproaching President as-Sadat) and [words indistinct]; when this point becomes clear, the second point to be tackled will be: What will be the nature of the next Arab move?

For the time being, the situation is frozen, and today's stalemate is more dangerous than yesterday's; the state of no war, no peace that followed President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to the Knesset has become more grave that the state of no war, no peace of the period after 1973 [words indistinct]. As for the visit and what was expected from it, if the Arabs do not make a move one way or another, this will prompt us, and indeed the entire world, into believing that the peace process is still on, but that we [words indistinct], you see, leaders and peoples. Then a summit is necessary to settle this artificial inter-Arab dispute; I believe that the dispute is artificial; [words indistinct] President Anwar as-Sadat has not in fact abandoned a single one of the Rabat summit points; he has not concluded a separate peace treaty; he has not bargained over the Palestinian rights; he rejected any bargaining over evacuation of the occupied territories.

[Question] The Arab press has written many times about secret Moroccan-Israeli or Moroccan-Jewish meetings [words indistinct]. Could you tell us about this?

[Answer] Indeed, there have been contacts between us and Jewish [words indistinct]. For example, Nahum Goldmann, we know him well; and (Chourako) is a man of science who harbors friendship and respect for us. Some of the Moroccan Jewish colony have now become very important [words indistinct] in Canada and France. There have been contacts; for instance, we know very well Mr Debre who is a great Parisian (?politician); he is our friend. The contacts were held at this level. Contacts did not go beyond this level, and have never been at the politicians' level, or at Israeli or at Zionist levels, never. I want this to be stressed.

[Question] After the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, how do you assess the situation?

[Answer] I believe that as long as the Syrian Army does not withdraw from Lebanon, the latter will never know calm; this is a basic element-the evacuation of the Syrian Army from Lebanon. As long as the Syrian Army is there, Lebanon will remain an arena for competition between the Iraqis, the Libyans, and various other elements. The presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon invites trouble, disasters. The evacuation of the Syrian Army is an extremely important element for the restoration of security to Lebanon.

[Question] There is talk about Moroccan-Algerian contacts being held now to calm down the situation, or to restore harmony in the region.

[Answer] There were contacts between friends who used to meet and lament about the present situation; and all of them, Moroccans and Algerians, tried to reach a kind of understanding. As for official contacts in the traditional sense, no, there have not been any so far.

[Question] In the Arab east there are some who reproach the Moroccan leadership with the fact that the king does not pay visits there for fear of another Oufkir affair.

[Answer] As a matter of fact, these reproaches come on the part of the Arab brothers; it is my fear of hurting sensitivities that prevents me from paying visits there. I would indeed like to visit two countries, Egypt and Syria, to pay tribute to the Moroccan martyrs buried there. I know that Egypt's door is open to me any time; but with regard to Syria, I think I'd better wait a little. As for what you have hinted at, everybody knows that today any leader is danger-prone, whether at home or abroad. Come what may, the day of death is inevitable; it does not depend on traveling on a plane, or [word indistinct] the day it is written we must die, we die. This then does not prevent me from making visits abroad.

[Question] Some in the Arab east talk about your having been ill at one time. Is this true?

[Answer] My 2 and ½ years in exile in Malagas was one cause of my developing [word indistinct] This Malagas [word indistinct] is graver than the usual one. This is why my digestion is delicate; I can't eat all I want; I can't put on weight. Apart from that I am in good health. [end recording]

TUNISIA

YAR PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION TO BE MOURNED

LD261815Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD

[Text] As a result of the assassination of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, the YAR president, it has been decided to declare mourning in Tunisia as of today and for 3 days during which flags will be flown at half mast on public and official buildings.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD262140Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD

[Summary] The Saharan Defense Ministry published a communique this evening stating that clashes near Tifarity and Guelta Zemmur between soldiers of the Saharan Liberation Army and royalist troops have resulted in one death and about 50 injured among the ranks of the Moroccan troops.

On 19 June, Saharan forces attacked a unit of the Moroccan invasion army, killing eight enemy soldiers.

On 20, 21 and 22 June, royalist positions were attacked in this locality resulting in about 10 dead and the same number injured. An enemy column was attacked on the same dates by fighters and three vehicles were destroyed.

A similar attack took place near Auleitis and royalist units left large quantities of ammunition on the ground. During these clashes, 45 soldiers of the Moroccan intervention forces were put out of action and about 30 others were injured.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON HIS HEALTH, EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS

TA270651Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Jun 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Israel will not give in to dictates. This was said last night by Prime Minister Menahem Begin when he completely rejected the Egyptian proposals. This was the first public reference by Mr Begin to the peace program being formulated in Egypt. Last night the prime minister went to the rose garden to attend a meeting of Likud activists in Jerusalem to mark the first year of the Likud cabinet. Our correspondent on party affairs, Sara Frankel, was there:

Last night the prime minister went to the rose garden after having participated in 6 hours of debates. The public awaiting his arrival gave him an enthusiastic, warm reception, interrupting his remarks from time to time with stormy applause. Menahem Begin felt at home last night, with his own people, and this was noticeable immediately when he began speaking. The prime minister spoke first about the state of his health. [begin recording]

[Begin] I am very happy to have been given the opportunity to come to you and prove to you, thousands of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and, in particular, to our communications media, that I am a healthy man. [applause] I do not remember any period when the communications media took so much interest in the health of one man. I will tell you the story: I leave home in the morning, the communications media film me from my right side; I reach the office, the communications media film me from the left; I work in my office and go back home, they film me from the front. In all my life--and I have reached a certain age, I am not a young man--I have never been filmed so much. [end recording]

After this, the prime minister wanted, as he put it, to move over to serious issues. He spoke about the difficulties, the concern and the efforts to achieve peace, but such peace, he said, as will give the people of Israel security. [begin recording]

[Begin] It is hard, that is true, that if you hear such a demand from the south--give up Gaza, give up Judaea and Samaria and then we will hold talks with you on Israel's security problems--thank you very much. [laughter, applause] To this we say kindly, thank you very much. [end recording]

Later the prime minister criticized those claiming that a year had passed since the Likud rose to power and no agreement has yet been signed. I want to ask, he said, a year has passed, and before that, did 29 years not pass? [begin recording]

[Begin] Only 1 year and they are already standing with a watch in their hands. Where is the treaty? Where is the document? Where is the signature? Well, all right, there is a second side. There is an enemy which is maintaining a state of war, which is raising demands, and I want to say here simply: the State of Israel will not accept dictates; the State of Israel will conduct negotiations. [applause] [end recording]

BEGIN-WEIZMAN MEETING SAID TO HAVE BEEN 'COOL'

TA261222Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jun 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Uri Porat]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Prime Minister Menahem Begin told Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman that the promises Weizman made last week in his visits to Nabulus and Hebron were under the authority of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs and that therefore only that committee is authorized to approve them.

During his visit to Nabulus the defense minister granted the demand made by Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'a to permit the municipality to import three generators to increase the electricity supply in the town.

The generators affair has in the last few years become a subject for political conflict between the military government and the inhabitants. The military government demanded that the town be connected to the Israeli electricity system while the inhabitants objected, regarding this linkup as a political act which ties them to Israel.

In Hebron, Weizman granted the demand to permit the return of a physician, Dr Ahmad Hamza (Natsha), who, 2 years ago, was expelled to Jordan for instigating and carrying out hostile activity.

Weizman's responsiveness to the inhabitants' requests has pleased the inhabitants in Judaea and Samaria, and many people praised him for his initiative.

Yesterday's meeting between Begin and Weizman was prearranged (even before the last crisis) and was intended to be a discussion of defense issues. It was a tete-a-tete and was described as having been cool.

The prime minister told his associates that he did not intend to dismiss the defense minister, but that the latter must confine himself to matters under his jurisdiction.

WEIZMAN, HERUT FACTION APPARENTLY RESOLVE PROBLEMS

TA262042Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Jun 78 TA

[Text] It appears that the bumps have been ironed out between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and the Herut faction. A short while ago a protracted meeting of the Likud Knesset faction, which the prime minister and the defense minister attended, ended at the Knesset. Israel's answers to the United States and the remarks by Minister 'Ezer Weizman were discussed at the meeting. Our correspondent Nahman Shay reports from the Knesset [begin videotape]

Prime Minister Menahem Begin came to the Likud faction meeting mainly to listen, but also to make himself heard. In view of the allegations that the defense minister had been misled, the prime minister said: I did not promise anyone that I would adopt one proposal or another. I considered every proposal with the aim of presenting the cabinet with a draft proposal of my own, and that was what I did. The prime minister participated throughout the meeting and paid close attention to the discussion.

'Ezer Weizman said: I believe in a complete Eretz Yisra'el. In my view, Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip are an inseparable part of Eretz Yisra'el. This I have always believed, and I even preferred this belief of mine to my duties in the IDF. The minister made this statement, after members of the faction asserted that he had abandoned, as it were, the principles and ideals of the party.

The minister spoke at length and in a tone of appeasement. He expressed regret over what he had said in the corridors of the cabinet last week. According to reports from the Herut faction, he thus alleviated most of the resentment that had been felt against him.

The faction meeting lasted for about 5 hours. The marathon discussion was attended by most of the faction members. There was deliberately no suggestion to adopt any operational resolution, certainly no confidence or no-confidence vote in the minister. It was emphasized that a distinction should be made between Weizman's expressions against the foreign minister and those against the prime minister, with the faction primarily defending the prime minister. Ultimately, Weizman was requested to implement the rules that result from his membership in the faction as well as in the cabinet. The current debate in the Herut faction has, apparently, come to an end. [end videotape]

Details on Meeting

TA270750Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Jun 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] The faction supports the cabinet in its peace program and its political moves. This is the text of the resolution which the Likud faction passed last night at the end of marathon discussions held with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. 'Ezer Weizman sat for 7 hours yesterday, first with the Herut division and then with the entire Likud faction, 7 hours during which he heard and also expressed views on the cabinet decision on the replies to the United States, the political negotiations and his reaction to the cabinet's decisions. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Zevi Lidar, reports:

'Ezer Weizman is in favor of Eretz Yisra'el. I have devoted my entire life to Eretz Yisra'el, he said last night, and because of my support for this idea, I had problems in the army concerning advancement and promotion. What I have done and am now doing for Eretz Yisra'el others are not doing today. However, the defense minister thinks, we must stand up at this time to the test of peace in the not unlimited belief in the sincerity of the president of Egypt. As-Sadat, in Weizman's view believes in peace and wants it, not necessarily out of a love for Israel as much as out of a desire to overcome the poverty affecting his country.

The defense minister totally rejected complaints that he is blindly following the Egyptian president's personal charm. He said that when he heard As-Sadat's conditions for peace in his speech to the Knesset, he sent a note to the prime minister, in the middle of the speech, saying that he was going to prepare the army for war. Did any of you say such things then, Weizman asked. He added: I believe in peace. I do not want us to reach a situation where they will accuse us, the Likud, of having led the nation to war. For peace, he continued, one needs a strong army and so I said that I was going to prepare the army. The IDF is indeed stronger than it has ever been before. Since the Yom Kippur war we have procured military equipment worth $6.5 billion and this is a greater strengthening of the IDF than it underwent from the time of its creation to the Yom Kippur war.

Referring to the cabinet's political moves, 'Ezer Weizman leveled criticism at Moshe Dayan's statements. The cabinet, in his view, made a dangerous move in that it speaks with the United States instead of speaking directly with Egypt. Israel's leaders have always sought direct talks with the areas and along comes As-Sadat and we rush to the United States. How, Weizman asked, was it possible to ignore such a contact? How is it possible that for an entire month the cabinet did not answer Al-Jamasi's message? Along with the criticism, Weizman complimented the prime minister on his leadership and said that he believes and hopes that Begin will bring peace.

The defense minister emphasized one thing: He does not intend to resign. I still have a great deal of work in the Ministry of Defense, he said. Not one member of Herut or the other Likud groups demanded Weizman's resignation. It appears that all of the heavy ammunition prepared against him had already been spent in the communications media over the last few days.

Along with the remarks of support he gained from some Knesset members, he was also criticized. MK Amnon Lin said that he did not accept 'Ezer Weizman's conclusions that As-Sadat wants peace. It is impossible, he said, that the fate of the third temple should be dependent on the defence minister's feelings.

A similar view was expressed by Yosef Rom, who was relying on As-Sadat's book and who said that the president of Egypt was not in the habit of changing his positions in accordance with needs. Ge'ula Kohen attacked Weizman for the fact that, as a minister, he comes out against the cabinet. It is her assumption, she said, that you run ahead of and beyond the prime minister's peace program. MK Moshe Arens joined with Ge'ula Kohen's criticism, but supported Weizman's view that a link with the Arabs is to be given preference over U.S. mediation. Pesah Grupper came to Weizman's aid and attacked the La'am members who, in his view, are parties to an anti-Weizman plot. He attacked Moshe Dayan, saying that the leaks from the cabinet sessions had been let out deliberately in order to harm Weizman. MK Kaufma, who concluded the debate in Herut, demanded unity and teamwork in the leadership. He expressed full trust in the prime minister's leadership, his political honesty and his path. This mood of support for the cabinet and its political path also prevailed in the session of the entire Likud faction.

Has the Weizman crisis ended? Have the faction members been convinced of his remarks? On this we heard from Herut division member, MK Yig'al Kohen, who initally was one of the chief attackers of 'Ezer Weizman. [begin recording]

[Kohen] I estimate that today's debate in Herut permits a continuation of correct activity, now that the defense minister has heard the comments by the members regarding his statements after the cabinet session, particularly the interviews at the end of the week. The explanations the defense minister gave, together with the approach he expressed, in fact indicate a continuation of adherence to the cabinet's peace program, and, in my view, permit the continuation of the correct work of the cabinet, the faction, concerning the issue we have been debating. [end recording]

TENSION INCREASES IN S. LEBANON BETWEEN UN, MILITIA

TA270806Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Jun 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] In southern Lebanon relations between the Lebanese militia and UN personnel again worsened after the militia opened fire at units of UN troops from Ireland. They also prevented the passage of supplies to the UN bases. The terrorists have also increased their activity over the last few days in the sector and various signs point to cooperation between them and the UN personnel. Our correspondent in the n[illegible], Yehezqel Ha[illegible], reports on developments in the area:

Fire was opened on the UN units from Ireland as a warning and to deter them. The militia had received reports that the UN units from Ireland were to deploy in the area under militia control. The Lebanese militiamen then hurried to signal to the UN personnel, by firing several rounds over their heads, that they were indeed prepared and would, at any cost, prevent their deployment in the field. The UN troops did not return the fire and opted to dig in at their positions and keep to their bases in spite of the threats by the militia. They are going mad, the UN commanders in the sector said. They are capable of slaughtering us.

The worsening of relations can also be seen in the increased severity of the difficulties the militiamen are making for the passage of supplies to the UN bases in the field. Yesterday, the militia prevented the passage of supplies to units from Ireland and they have again begun to make the passage of supplies difficult for units from Norway, who are concentrated in the eastern sector.

The militiamen are now accusing the Norwegians of cooperating with the terrorists. According to the complaint, the Norwegians released two armed terrorists, who had been taken at the end of last week in the area of Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, after pressure by the PLO command in Beirut on UN general staff headquarters.

Together with this, the terrorists' provocation of the Christians has also increased. Yesterday the terrorists directed submachinegun and artillery fire at Marj 'Uyun. Following these developments, the militiamen claim that they have been ordered by their commanders in Beirut to step up their readiness and state of alert. However, they commented that their commanders had told them they had to honor the agreement between Major Haddad and UNIFIL Commander Erskine and permit the UN troops to hold the positions agreed on.

MINISTER BURG INTERVIEWED ON CABINET PEACE STANCE

TA241502Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Jun 78 p 7 weekend supplement TA

[Interview with Interior and Police Minister Yosef Burg by Refa'el Bashan--time and place not given]

[Excerpts] Interior and Police Minister Dr Yoseff Burg was the only minister in the Israeli Cabinet who reacted this week in a clear, open and unequivocal manner to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's stormy remarks, saying: "This was the first shot in the war of inheritance over Menahem Begin's seat!" Since Burg is the longest serving cabinet minister with rich parliamentary experience, who is well versed in government secrets--with all its ploys and tactics--great significance should be attached to these remarks.

Question: Mr Minister, what brought you to this clear conclusion?

Answer: First of all, this is not what I said and the remarks were incorrectly quoted. What I said is that one can hear the ring of a war of inheritance in the arguments within the cabinet over the past 2 weeks. (Firmly) In my opinion, there was no need for this parade of formulas and display of formulators in the cabinet in front of the public. The value of a compromise formula lies in its keeping a low profile once reached and not turning it into a disharmonious symphony. All the publicity given to the disputes within the government was totally unnecessary and brought no good. (With a certain amount of irony) In my opinion, the problem itself is sufficiently complex without bringing into it the element of "authors' envy" or more correctly, "formulators' envy."

Question: However, you did mention the term inheritance. In your opinion, who are the people who regard themselves as candidates to inherit Menahem Begin's seat as prime minister?

Answer: (Diplomatically) I'll tell you, it depends on who comprises the next government and until then new stars might rise in the political heavens and some of today's "bright lights" might burn out. (With frankness) I admit that my answer might appear to dodge the question, but this is the absolute truth.

Question: How do you, as a man with much political and parliamentary experience, view the defense minister's remarks as quoted by the communications media. Was this the result of a firm view and firm weltanschauung or a burst of anger, bitterness and personal frustration?

Answer: (Carefully) Formulations are usually a result of man's temperament, and wiser men have already said that "style is the man." As for the political arrangement that was the foundation of Weizman's draft formula, from this point of view he was certainly consistent and not isolated in his position in the cabinet. With certain changes I could have voted in favor of 'Ezer Weizman's proposals. [paragraph continues]

In fact, the cabinet was united around two central issues: A. We have to maintain close ties with the United States; B. We should not make any substantive commitments now about the future of Judaea and Samaria in 5 years. As a matter of fact, the gap between all the formulas submitted by the ministers was not great or significant.

Question: The press maintained that Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that "the prime minister and the foreign minister have been lying to the people for several months," and that "I am now going to prepare the army for war." Don't you think that a minister making such remarks should draw conclusions and resign from the government?

Answer: (With a fine smile) A. I do not know if the defense minister made the remarks attributed to him by the press; B. If he did, I would not award him first prize for having the successful political formula of 1978. Either way, it is clear that 'Ezer Weizman was disappointed with the fact that his formula was not endorsed--a formula which said in clearer terms what the cabinet decision stated in general terms, to the effect that Israel is willing and wants to continue the negotiations with Egypt. (Unequivocably) Once thing is clear, whoever really intends to prepare the army for war does not announce this publicly.

Question: Before the vote in the cabinet, and as a result of your conversation with the prime minister, did you know what the prime minister's formula was?

Answer: I can say that I was not the only minister who did not know what formula the prime minister would propose and submit to a vote. It is a fact that the defense minister, despite his regret and anger, desisted from submitting his formula for a vote in the cabinet and this shows he did not, under any circumstances, wish to enter into a confrontation with the prime minister. It is true that 'Ezer Weizman expressed his reservations to the members of the cabinet, this is his right and duty. However, he was faithful to what he had told me 2 days earlier: "I will under no circumstances permit the removal of Menahem Begin in any manner from the premiership."

Question: Did the MAFDAL have a draft proposal on the answers that we were asked to give to the United States?

Answer: (With restraint) When I spoke with the prime minister at his home last Friday I submitted the MAFDAL draft formula to him. Under no circumstances did I apply pressure in this direction because I understood that the prime minister wished to submit a formula of his own, around which he wished to unite as large a majority of the cabinet as possible. My point of departure was my desire to do everything possible not to split the votes in the cabinet. Therefore, I can safely say that the DMC ministers in the cabinet could also have voted in favor of the prime minister's proposal, just as the MAFDAL ministers backed down from their own proposal, because the importance of the issue under discussion and the stand of a maximum number of cabinet ministers behind the prime minister is more important than party barriers.

Question: The chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, said this week ironically: "The cabinet resolution created a basis for a partial peace among its ministers, and it grants administrative autonomy to the DMC." What do you think of this?

Answer: Shim'on Peres is a great expert for partial peace in the Labor Party and he is entitled to analyze the cabinet resolution according to his own personal experience.

Question: Broad circles among the public believe that most cabinet members were seeking ways and means to avoid giving a clear and unambiguous answer to the U.S. question: What will be the territorial status of the territories after 5 years?

Answer: I see no fault in the fact that the Government of Israel is unwilling to undertake today an explicit commitment about what will happen in Judaea and Samaria after 5 years. In my view, there is definitely logic in the prime minister's basic position, according to which we must give the autonomy plan a chance to prove itself, and to examine to what extent it will contribute toward political and psychological tranquillity. Since I fully agree with this position, I am not ready to accept your annoying citation.

Question: What exactly did you have in mind when you remarked during a political discussion in the MAFDAL Knesset faction that "at the cabinet meeting there was a striptease of formulas in front of the public and the discipline was poor?"

Answer: Today I would say that a "parade of formulas" was taking place in the cabinet. In my opinion, it was undesirable that all those formulas were brought to the attention of the public. It did not contribute a thing. I also thing that the fact that every third cabinet member proffered a formula of his own is an unhealthy situation. I repeat and say that it is to the credit of the MAFDAL that we did not broach our proposal at the cabinet session, but clarified it in a talk with the prime minister. It is true that at one stage I suggested that a ministerial formulating committee be formed, something which was customary at the time of the cabinet of national unity, when the then minister without portfolio, Menahem Begin, was an important member of that committee.

Question: Are you happy about the question-and-answer method that is now used between the United States and Israel?

Answer: No. I do not hold that the presentation of such questionnaires will bring about a solution of complex problems and that it can be an ersatz for meetings and talks. Nothing can replace personal meetings between leaders of countries. The issues under discussion cannot remain within the framework of one formulation or another. They are to a great extent linked to the creation of a proper atmosphere, from which real and efficient negotiations should grow. The questionnaire method recently introduced by the United States contributed, in my view, nothing to the process of the dialog or to its intensification. After all, what is at issue here are not lifeless letters or sophisticated papers. but living people. Words are something that we received in abundance last year. President as-Sadat took a courageous step and came to Jerusalem. But, what did he give us? Words! What does he demand from us? Territories! He made many declarations and now he is demanding facts from us. I, personally will not weaken nor tire from presenting to the administration and to the American public our position, which is based on a moral approach on the one hand, and on geopolitical logic on the other. What do they propose to us today? That the width of the State of Israel extend from Natanya to Tulkarm, which means, in American terms, less than half the length of Broadway in New York.

Question: Do you think that in view of what happened this week the relations inside the cabinet will be more tense or more bitter than in the past?

Answer: I hope that Menahem Begin will conduct the cabinet sessions as authoritatively as he has since the Likud cabinet was established. The kind of "incidents" that happened in the last 2 weeks during cabinet sessions, with what was said or unsaid in them, should serve as a clear lesson and severe warning that it is essential to maintain the image of a united cabinet both at home and abroad.

Question: Could it be said that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan places the emphasis in his basic approach on a Jordan-Israel solution while Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman calls for an Egypt-Israel solution?

Answer: (Slowly) This is the impression that I got even though in my opinion, one cannot build long-term foundations on a solution with one Arab country without attempting to find a dialog with other countries. It is a fact that Egypt is the largest and leading country in the region. There is no historical residue between Israel and Egypt and a Sinai Desert devoid of soldiers can, in the future, be full of peace. With respect to Jordan the situation is much more complicated. They sat west of the Jordan River for several years without international recognition. (Raising his voice) Judaea and Samaria are not mystical terms for us as some of our enemies would like to have believed. Judaea and Samaria are cornerstones of our history, tradition and national consciousness. I regret to say that the United States is mistaken in applying pressure on us today to make far-reaching concessions in Judaea and Samaria. It is quite possible that U.S. policy in the region is influenced to this day by the wounds of the Vietnam "trauma" or the tradition of isolationism which is characteristic of several states in the United States. It is a fact that the relaxed U.S. position is interpreted by the world as a position of weakness, otherwise it is difficult to understand how Cuba has become an international exporter of soldiers, trainers and fighters trying to bring about a communist takeover of Africa.

Question: The press has stated that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said this week during a meeting with important members of his party that took place at MK Abba Eban's home that "the replacement of the government and the establishment of a government headed by the Alinement is a matter of months, weeks or even days." Do you agree?

Answer: (Smiling) If these remarks were made they contain a great deal of optimism with a small amount of realism. However, the political picture might change because next week the DMC party conference is to take place and it is hard to tell which group will win. Perhaps those who demand that the DMC resign from the government will win and then, of course, there will be a basic change in the situation.

Question: Recently there have been whispers and hints of a tendency among certain circles in MAFDAL to renew, under certain circumstances, the "historic alliance" with the Labor Party. Is there any substance to this?

Answer: I have never personally denied--and the same goes for the movement--the pages of light that we wrote together with the workers camp in the past. However, the last elections proved that the people wanted a change and now the country requires maximum unity on the governmental and parliamentary level. It is true that recently we have met with leaders of the Labor Party but the main issue discussed was the election to the chief rabbinate. Of course, when old friends meet they also talk about the national and international situation, but nowhere in our conversations did we touch upon an issue that might be interpreted as making new moves in the makeup of the parliamentary or coalition.

DAYAN BACKERS MEET, DISCUSS NEW POLITICAL GROUP

TA251926Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The forum for sociopolitical clarifications, whose members are supporters of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, held its seventh meeting this evening in Tel Aviv. Among those participating were several personalities from the Labor Party and a fair number of members of the Hityashvut Ha'ovedet [Collective Agricultural Settlement Movement].

Correspondent Sara Frankel points out that new moods could be heard at the meeting implying that there is an intention among the participants of the forum to consolidate a new political force. Mordekhay Ben-Porat called for an examination of the type of consolidation the forum was seeking and of its future direction. According to him there is a need to consolidate a strong and dynamic force.

MK Zalman Shoval of the La'am faction in the Likud said that Moshe Dayan has a firm political foundation and has many supporters in wide circles.

MK 'Amos Hadar of the Alinement called for the reestablishment of a national consensus on Israel's security questions to facilitate the establishment of a broadly-based government.

Minister Dayan did not participate at the meeting because he wished to avoid making a political statement at this moment.

MILITARY DELEGATION NEAR ALEXANDRIA CHANGED

TA231308Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] The members of the Israeli military delegation in Egypt were replaced this Monday. An Israel Air Force Dakota brought the replacements to the Egyptian air force base of (Jankalis) near Alexandria.

For the next 2 weeks the delegation will be headed by Col Ya'aqov Heykhal who will replace Col Eli'ezer Rimon. Nine members of the delegation have also been replaced. The Egyptians approved the replacement of the Israeli delegation in accordance with a long-standing arrangement. The delegation is replaced every 2 weeks and an Israeli plane lands in Egypt with the Israeli team.

The Egyptian permission to replace the team points to a willingness at this stage to maintain existing relations and not harm the status of the military delegation which has been in Egypt since the military talks began in Al-Tahira Palace in Cairo.

WEIZMAN OPPOSES EFFORTS TO RECALL DELEGATION

TA231559Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The defense minister has succeeded in thwarting trends in the government to return to Israel the military delegation which is permanently stationed in an Egyptian military camp near Alexandria. In fact, this week a decision in this spirit was prevented and a replacement team, headed by Col Ya'aqov Heykhal left for Cairo.

Correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned from a senior source in the Defense Ministry that several ministers were of the opinion that leaving the delegation in Egypt gives Cairo a psychological advantage in the event it decides to expel the Israelis. There were those who said that it was worthwile bringing the delegation back until the talks in the Joint Political Committee with Egypt are resumed.

A senior minister based himself on the words of President as-Sadat that there is no point in meeting with Israeli representatives who are not high-ranking. In his rebuttal, Weizman said that this is the first instance of such a tie between Israel and Egypt and that one should not rely on foreign elements which have interests and who add their own touch to the things transmitted from Israel to Egypt.

On another occasion, the defense minister said that he had no intention of ceasing to express his opinions regarding the moves necessary for an arrangement, despite the criticism leveled at him. Weizman said that he believes in the sincerity of the Egyptian president's intentions and that direct negotiations without mediators should be sought. Indeed, one must not become totally subservient to the United States, but one must take its views into account.

As for the criticism leveled at him in his movement, Herut, he said that in 11 years, it had only established three settlements in the territories, while the Alinement set up 102 settlements beyond the green line.

JERUSALEM NOTES CARTER'S COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN PLAN

TA2712317Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Jun 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Excerpts] I noticed, U.S. President Jimmy Carter said at a press conference in the White House, that the Cabinet of Israel on Sunday rejected an Egyptian proposal which had not yet been offered. This proposal has not yet received its final form, it has not yet been submitted to us so that we could forward it to Israel and it has already been rejected. Shalom Qital, our political correspondent, the cabinet's announcement last Sunday, first broadcast here, referred, if I remember correctly, to remarks by the president of Egypt broadcast over Cairo radio.

[Qital] Definitely. Since they were broadcast over Cairo radio, they were not a program by Egypt that was officially submitted to Israel. This, at any rate, is what authorized sources in Jerusalem are saying. In other words, it is very possible that if Egypt is now formulating a peace program, this peace program will be submitted via the United States or directly to Israel and will include, among other things, these two demands: return of the Gaza Strip to Egypt, and of Judaea and Samaria to Jordan, as an interim stage toward a final settlement.

[Announcer] The reference was not to such a peace program?

[Qital] The reference was to remarks made over Cairo radio. Furthermore, nobody has said that if Egypt submits a program whose opening position is not acceptable to Israel--Egypt, let us assume, will submit a program where Judaea and Samaria to to Jordan, the Gaza Strip to Egypt--nobody has said that if this is submitted at the discussion table, Israel will not sit down and discuss it. What Israel said is: When the president of Egypt says, the return of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip at an early stage and as a prior condition, that is, without this I will not come to the discussions table at all--Israel rejected the precondition.

[Announcer] Yes, President Carter, if we go back to what he said, also described Israel's answers to the U.S. questions as disappointing, or very disappointing. Was Jerusalem surprised by the presidential reaction?

[Qital] No, the U.S. reaction last week, at which time there was already a reaction by the State Department spokesman, was one of a certain disappointment, although I must say that in private contacts, in quieter contacts, the United States certainly is not enthusiastic about Israel's answers but does not regard them as putting the lid on it; the United States certainly accepts that there is still something to talk about, even when Israel's answers are not 100 percent acceptable to the United States--and let us add that the United States is now initiating a move to get direct contacts between Kamil, Vance and Dayan in London--things are not yet finally closed. Certainly the United States, on the basis of Israel's answers, sees a point in direct negotiations and it may very well be that in the upcoming trip by Walter Mondale, who arrives here on Friday, we will hear about a continuation of the negotiations.

SHAH GIVES INTERVIEW TO OSLO PAPER AFTENPOSTEN

LD2312O1Y Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 17 Jun 78 p 13 LD

[Stein Savik undated Teheran interview with shah of Iran]

[Excerpt] We began the interview by reminding the shah that he promised that before the year 2000 Iran would emerge as the world's fifth great power and be a leading institution with an economy standing on its own feet, even without oil revenues. We asked if he still adheres to this forecast, since for the last 2 years Iran has had to moderate its fantastically rapid growth.

"Yes," the shah replied, "and I would go even further. I would say that toward the end of this century we will have no more oil, at least not for export. But I will be more specific on a few points. When I say that it is my hope that we will be the fifth world power, I do not mean military nuclear power. I am also excluding from my list the super-powers which will have more than 300 million inhabitants by the end of the year [as published, presumably should read "century"]. But I would compare us with the European powers. When we lose oil we will still have natural gas for many years to come, and we will also be big producers of steel, copper, aluminum and petrochemical products. Our existing motor industry could make good because of our own favorable steel supplies. Agricultural development will be limited because of inadequate water supplies, but we will build large desalination plants on the Persian Gulf, and we intend building a network of nuclear reactors to produce electricity. There are many desolate places in our country where there is no danger of pollution."

[Question] But could Iran maintain the rapid economic growth together with its very high defense expenditure and purchases of the most advanced weaponry from the United States?

[Answer] First and foremost we must clarify what is rapid growth. This year we have a 10-percent growth rate, probably the highest in the world. But there was one year when we were right up to 38 percent, although it was not known. Following that we had inflation. Now we have begun to combat it, and for the first time in 2 years prices have even begun to fall. Today our workers have wages which are at least no lower than European wages. We have nearly 1 million foreign workers at all levels up to the specialist level. In reply to your question I would say that we can still do both--we can both develop our country and insure our defense.

We will work very hard for worldwide disarmament, but it must be monitored, the shah said. We must be sure of that. We know how many countries have been jeopardized and even crushed because of their military weakness. Just look at what is happening in Africa today.

[Question] Iran has previously advocated higher oil prices, but today it has a virtual price freeze. Will your country display moderation in the price issue?

"Yes," came the reply," but there must be specific grounds for requiring moderation. There is no question of capitulating to pressure.

Today there is an oil surplus on the market, but in 1981 the surplus will disappear. I am afraid that between 1981 and 1985 prices will rise so steeply that the problem must be discussed now between the producing and consuming countries. Should we raise prices to a level which can be foreseen and established or should we wait until the day we are obliged to make an enormous increase? It is a question which economists must meet to discuss; the situation cannot continue as today."

[Question] Demonstrations by various opposition groups have recently taken place in several Iranian cities, and some press reports have described them as the most serious threat to your government in the last 15 years. But you have declared that you have begun a new program of political liberalization, and that the government's decision to take tough measures against the demonstrators by no means signifies that liberalization will be stopped. What has been done in the last few years to liberalize political conditions, and might the riots not have been avoided if greater political and individual freedom were permitted?

"Our liberalization program will continue," the shah said, adding that his economic and social reforms, which began in 1963 and which he always described as Iran's revolution, require "an absolutely centralized government." "We have experienced a real and complete revolution," he said.

"I am prepared to compare our life philosophy and what has been achieved in this country during the revolution with any other society in the world as regards social justice and equality," the shah continued. "All our farmers own their land, and there are no longer landowners and tenants who work for them. In the factories our workers receive 20 percent of the net profits and can purchase up to 49 percent of the shares, up to 99 percent in state industries except the oil and steel industry. Now we have completed one great stage; more than 50 percent of our population can read and write, and we can grant more and more freedom to the people. I hope that in 10 years' time we will no longer have illiterate people. These people will know what are their and the state's interests."

The shah said that Iranians today can elect the municipal councils, that within the one-party system there are free and direct elections of candidates to the National Assembly and that minor legal disputes can be resolved by the citizens themselves in special courts.

"We also provide traitors with increasingly good facilities to defend themselves before the law," he said. "Our justice minister has just declared that even these people are very well protected by the law. But there are people who have done nothing for their country except to ruin it. They are now free, and they are fanning the revolts. It is actually a phenomenon which had to come. Obviously no responsible government can accept it, but I hope that the pendulum will swing back to its correct position. Could the disturbances have been avoided? No, because for 15 years we have had to exert pressure to implement the revolution. We had to have a centralized government. How otherwise can you carry out a revolution? Others shed blood; they kill hundreds of thousands, millions of people. We did not do that.

"If two, three or ten people are killed here, immediately there is a mass outcry," the shah went on to say. "One million people have been massacred in Cambodia but is there any mention of that?

There are disturbances in India--there are workers who demand something or other and the police open fire. In one incident alone more people are killed than have been killed in our country in the last 15 years. But nobody speaks of that."

[Question] Do the steps toward liberalization which you have mentioned also include the release of political prisoners?

[Answer] Many have already been released. They have had sentences passed against them but have nevertheless been set at liberty. Our laws require that a prisoner shall at least express a certain amount of regret for what he has done. But what should we do with those who refuse to express regret? Nevertheless, many have been released.

[Question] Can you give the number?

[Answer] All in all there are less than 2,000.

[Question] Who have been released?

[Answer] No, who are still in custody. One year ago there were about 3,300 and now there are less than 2,000.

[Question] Do you disagree with Amnesty International, which earlier quoted different figures?

[Answer] Those figures are a complete lie and Amnesty International knows it.

We moved on to discuss foreign policy and referred to the fact that Iran, by virtue of its geographical position and oil supply lines, necessarily has an interest in stable relations along the Persian Gulf and in the Indian Ocean. But the events in the Horn of Africa are contributing little to stabilization, and disquieting signs are also appearing in other places. What does the shah regard as the greatest threats and dangers in those regions?

"You yourself have named them precisely," he answered. "Everything is completely clear. More than 10 years ago I was talking about what is happening today. I defended my country against what was to come and some of the Western mass media laughed at me. Well, today I will refrain from retaliating against the latter, since I was only doing my duty."

[Question] You have earlier expressed disappointment at the Western powers for their failure to draw the line defining the extent of the communist spread of power they will allow. Do you regard the planned Western cooperation with regard to Zaire as a change in the right direction?

[Answer] No, we can see few changes. But my attitude is fundamental, the shah said, and made it clear that not enough has happened yet for him to withdraw his negative assessment of the attitude of the West.

PRIME MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI DAILY

JN251006Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 25 June--Iranian Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar has revealed that the Arab-Iranian contacts to form a defense pact for the gulf area or to set up tripartite coordination among Iran, Saudi Arabia and Iraq to confront the communist tide or to protect the oil fields have stopped.

In interview with the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH published today, the Iranian prime minister said that Iran has expressed its readiness to the Arab Gulf states to participate in any security plan as and when these countries are prepared for such a plan.

Amuzegar asserted that it is out of the question to think of a separate grouping of the major gulf states. He said: The views of the shah of Iran have been and still are represented by the belief that the gulf states--no matter whether small or big--should shoulder the responsibility of maintaining the security of the area.

Speaking about oil prices, the Iranian prime minister pointed out that his government believes that oil prices should be close to the production costs of substitutes. He said that Iran agreed to freeze current oil prices as a result of the economic stagnation in Europe, the decrease in the demand for oil and the subsequent surplus on world markets.

He asserted that an increase in oil prices under the current circumstances would increase the state of economic stagnation in Europe and the industrial countries. He added that this would also harm the development programs in the OPEC countries.

Regarding the replacement of the dollar with another currency, the Iranian prime minister said the time for that has not yet come. He pointed out that the second Geneva equation [mu'adalat] as an accounting unit is not bad. He added: We cannot remain silent over the continued drop in the dollar's value.

Jamshid Amuzegar asserted that the stage of disturbances in Iran has disappeared for good. He denied that Iran will restore the system of multiple parties. He stressed that the Rastakhiz Party is the party of the entire Iranian nation.

The Iranian prime minister stressed that there is a connection between the Iranian Marxists and the international organizations of violence. He denied any contacts between Iranian religious leaders and foreign international forces. He also denied that his country grants special privileges to the Jews or Bahais.

Speaking about the situation in Afghanistan, the Iranian prime minister pointed out that [words indistinct]. He (?denied) that the change in Afghanistan represents any threat to his country.

SPOKESMAN DENIES PROSPECT OF ADDITIONAL POLITICAL PARTY

LD261722Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] The cabinet met this morning under Prime Minister Amuzegar. Our correspondent reports that after the cabinet meeting, Government Spokesman Dariush Homayun spoke to correspondents. In answer to a question on the possibility of the formation of another political party in addition to the Rastakhiz Party, Homayun said: "There is not going to be any party other than the Rastakhiz Party, for this party embraces all Iranians and is backed by all of them. If there are a few people who do not wish to play an active part in the Rastakhiz Party, this is entirely up to them, as no one is forced to join the Rastakhiz. Moreover, at the time of the establishment of Rastakhiz, all other political parties disbanded themselves. Consequently, there can be no other party. The spokesman added: Those unwilling to take any part in the party should not expect anything either, nor should they seek any responsibility, for responsibility and political activities are an inner process of the party.

AFGHANISTAN

PRESIDENT FREES NEARLY 1,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS

OW251144Y Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 25 Jun 78 OW

[Text] Islamabad, June 25 (AFP)--The leftist Afghanistan regime has freed nearly one thousand prisoners jailed during the rule of slain former President Mohammad Daud, according to reports broadcast by Radio Kabul monitored here.

At a special ceremony Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin himself burned bundles of files containing political and criminal cases against the released persons. Mr Amin, quoted by Radio Kabul, said that hundreds of (?thousands) had been killed and many spent their life in jail during the "despotic" rule of the Nadir dynasty. The foreign minister said the release orders had been issued by President Nur Mohammad Taraki in accordance with the spirit of the April 27 people's revolution.

He also announced reduction in the prison terms of about 400 prisoners at the ceremony which was also attended by four other ministers, including Justice Minister Abdolhakim Shara'i.

INDIA

AFP REPORTS 20 JUNE KASHMIR BORDER INCIDENT

BK241150Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 24 Jun 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, June 24 (AFP)--Pakistani soldiers fired at Indian security forces in the Rajouri sector of north India on Tuesday [20 June]--according to official reports received here, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) agency reported today. Rajouri is in disputed Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistanis opened fire when the security forces tried to keep them from cultivating land on the Indian side of the border, UNI said. Indian forces fired back and the exchange of shots lasted about half an hour, the agency said.

Senior Pakistani and Indian officers were to meet in the next 2 days to discuss the border incident.

PAKISTAN

GOVERNMENT SAYS INDIA PROVOKED KASHMIR FIRING

BK260001Y Hong Kong AFP in English 2339 GMT 25 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, June 25 (AFP)--The Pakistan Government today said Indian troops resorted to unprovoked firing on the Pakistani soliders on the line of control near Rajouri in Kashmir on Tuesday last [20 June]. Government sources, quoted by the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN news agency, described the Indian press reports about the incident as "garbled version."

They said the Indians opened fire when the Pakistani troops objected to digging of a trench by the Indians in order to divert water from a spring from which water had all along been drawn by the people on both sides of the control line. The Indian action, the sources said, would have deprived civilians on the Pakistani side of the spring water.

The sources confirmed that there were no casualties in the incident.

SOURCES CONFIRM FIRING ON INDO-PAK LINE

BK261209Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 26 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad have described the reports circulated by Indian news agencies on the exchange of fire between Pakistani and Indian troops near Rajauri in the line of control [in Kashmir] on Tuesday as a distortion of the facts.

The sources said that the Indians opened fire on the Pakistani troops without any provocation when they objected to the digging of a trench by the Indians in order to divert waters from a stream. This water has always been drawn by the people on both sides of the line of control.

The Indian action, it was pointed out, would deprive the people of Azad Kashmir of this facilitiy.

The Indian troops also opened fire twice in the last week on Pakistani troops over the same issue.

The official sources said that the Pakistani troops were forced to reply. These sources confirmed that there was no loss of life.

SRI LANKA

PRC'S KENG PIAO CONCLUDES ISLAND VISIT 25 JUNE

BK251104Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The vice premier of the People's Republic of China, Mr Keng Piao, left Sri Lanka this morning after completing his 4-day official visit to the island.

During his stay the Chinese vice premier held official talks with the prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa, called on the President, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, and held official talks also with the foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed.

Mr Keng Piao and party were conducted on a state drive from (Acton) house to the Katunayake International Airport this morning.

BRIEFS

SOVIET AIDED BANGLADESH PLANT--The 870 million Taka General Electric manufacturing plant in Chittagong of Bangladesh is to go into trial production next month. Agencies said that the Soviet aided plant will manufacture light accessories, transmission and distribution equipment and assemble electric and energy motors. This is the first heavy industry for large-scale production of electric goods and accessories in the country. The plant will be able to meet the entire requirements of the electrical goods of the country. [Text] [Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Jun 78 BK]

POLAND OFFERS PAKISTAN SHIPS--Poland has offered to supply 16 ships to Pakistan with assurance of quick deliveries beginning in 1980 on normal payment facility. This was stated in Karachi 20 June by the adviser on ports and shipping, Mr Mustafa Gokal, who recently visited Poland, Romania, Iran and Britain. He said Britain had agreed in principle to join Pakistan in setting up a shipping agency. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Jun 78 BK]

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